

I feel that a limit on blue gill is a great rule.

Comment Received 12/17/2014 9:48:49 PM

Commenter Name Max Wallace

City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Mwa2597@aol.com

Comments As a long time hunter ed instructor, 4-H shooting Sports coordinator, and land owner, I have to say no to this change. From a safety point. I have shot with alot of folks over the years, most are not good enough shots to hit at longer ranges. To me, if this is to let smaller kids go out, let them grow so they can handle recoil. I didn't agree with the .410 slugs either(not enough power). If you think you need a rifle to shoot more then what a slug or a ML will do, learn to be a better hunter. I have problems now with guys on my neighbors ground shooting across the fence rows on to mine now, why stretch it out more?

Comment Received 12/17/2014 10:26:01 PM

Commenter Name Gordon Ingle

City Corydon **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address gdlaw@faithinglesmith.com

Comments I support the expanded use of high powered rifles. I think we are safer in southern Indiana's hill country than the flatter terrain up north.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 7:22:37 AM

Commenter Name Louis Giacone

City Eustis **County** Out of State **State** Florida

E-Mail Address lwgiacone@yahoo.com

Comments Do not allow high power rifles during firearms season. Your reasoning is flawed, the states you use as examples do not have the same topography as Indiana. They also don't have the quality deer Indiana has except Kentucky. However Kentucky again has far different topography and their firearms season is shorter in approximately half the state. You also failed to mention Ohio, Illinois, and Iowa which are next to Indiana. These states have shotgun only firearms seasons and much shorter seasons outside the rut for the most part, and they have healthy deer herds with incredible trophy potential. I agree there are hunters using 500 yard smokeless muzzleloaders I don't think this should be allowed during a primitive firearms season. After hearing about this proposed change our club voted to leave Indiana for one of the states I mentioned earlier if high powered rifles are allowed. I hope this doesn't happen I have hunted in Indiana for 21 years with great results due to limiting hunters to shotguns and muzzleloaders only.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 8:53:03 AM

Commenter Name Eric Nuse

City Johnson **County** Out of State **State** VT

Organization (optional) Eric Nuse and Associates

E-Mail Address ericnuse@gmail.com

Comments regarding the change to allow highpowered rifles under Sec 5 312 IAC 9-3-3 (d) 4 (A)

A study done a few years ago in PA titled "Do Shotguns and Muzzleloaders Pose Less Risk than Centerfire Rifles for Hunting Deer in Pennsylvania" done by MountainTop Technologies, Inc. showed that shotgun slugs that hit the ground at a low angle deflect up and actually travel farther than a high powered bullet shot at the same angle. Apparently the high power bullets fragment while the slower heavier slugs ricochet. The down side for high power would be higher angle shots such as up hill or worse yet skyline shots where the 2 mile trajectory can kicks in. Bottom line is if you are worried about bullet flight beyond the target, slugs are probably not the answer.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 9:43:52 AM

Commenter Name Ralph G. Schuster

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address HuntingBear.46143@gmail.com

Comments I fully agree 312 IAC 9-3-3 that would allow rifle calibers to deer hunting equipment.

I have hunted white tail & mule deer in many states. I am a resident of Indiana but I have hunted in Wisconsin for the past 22 years utilizing a Ruger No. 1S rifle. I have taken 1 or more deer with this rifle every year and only with one shot per deer. I used this rifle and others in Missouri during the 18 years I lived & hunted there. I also have hunted with my Remington 1100 Rifle Barrel shotgun and my Thompson Center Triumph & Hawken BP Rifles in Illinois, Wisconsin, and BP in Missouri. I also go to Kentucky to hunt on my friend's property as I prefer a rifle for deer hunting.

The safety of using a centerfire rifle relies on the shooter observing all the rules of firearm safety. We have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of hunter related accidents as a result of the improved hunter education programs by the state DNRs.

Currently equipment being used in Indiana (e.g. handgun straight wall, BP rifles) all have an effective range that equals the centerfire rifle cartridge calibers being considered. This is a matter of cartridge ballistics. Indiana could try to restrict some of the largest calibers (e.g. 50BMG, .338 Lapua) that are not hunting calibers but that could be a daunting task as changes occur in the shooting industry. It is knowing what lies beyond the target, shot placement, etc. are what dictates safe hunting.

Other states restrict the equipment in an urban populated areas only not state wide as it is being done today in Indiana. Remember it is the shooter not the equipment that is in control of the safety of others.

I would propose that there may be fewer animals lost due to poorly placed shots if centerfire rifle calibers were allowed in this state. I also believe there will be an increase in deer hunting license sales in Indiana if a change is allowed. I currently purchase an Indiana license as I want to support the state DNR but I hunt in other states as a non-resident. I would like to hunt in Indiana but I would only be able use my BP rifles or handgun as I dislike the shotgun slug. I never hunted in Illinois due to their restriction on equipment despite living there for 22 years.

I endorse the changes proposed in 312 IAC 9-3-3 that would bring Indiana in-line with neighboring that allow the use of centerfire rifle cartridges. We will be able to introduce hunting & game management to more citizens. We need to be reaching out to the youth and teach the heritage of hunting in Indiana. (Try teaching a youth how to shoot a 20 gauge or 12 gauge shotgun with slugs. They seldom like the experience)

This would be a positive change for the Indiana DNR and benefit all the hunters & many of potential hunters. I would enjoy being able to hunt here next season with my rifle(s).

It will be hunter education and firearm courses that the NRA provides that make it safe for everyone not the restriction the equipment used.

Regards,

Ralph G. Schuster

Ralph G. Schuster

NRA Training Counselor & Instructor
USAA Level II Instructor

Comment Received 12/18/2014 9:48:58 AM

Commenter Name David Howell

City Bluffton **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dhowell@adamswells.com

Comments I think there should be a limit of 25 bluegill or sunfish state wide also a minum size limit of 9 inches for crappie

Comment Received 12/18/2014 10:24:20 AM

Commenter Name David Howell

City Bluffton **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dhowell@adamswells.com

Comments NO HPR'S FOR DEER HUNTING

Comment Received 12/18/2014 10:39:15 AM

Commenter Name Aaron Lorton

City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address alorton@hotmail.com

Comments I fully support Indiana allowing standard rifle calibers for deer hunting.

It is standard practice is many states with greater population density and is long overdue for Indiana.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 11:06:00 AM

Commenter Name Ronald E. Sides

City Albion **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ronsides@hotmail.com

Comments I am opposed to allowing High power rifles in deer season

I am opposed to having lifetime license language "being repealed" in the rule changes

Comment Received 12/18/2014 11:08:37 AM

Commenter Name Tim Dowdy

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address tdowdy1967@gmail.com

Comments I do not believe deer hunting should be allowed with rifles. A rifle has a much farther range than a shotgun and I believe safety of both hunters and citizens who live near hunting areas would be compromised. I would also like to comment that I believe Crossbows should be allowed on an Archery license and not a separate Crossbow license.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 11:20:11 AM

Commenter Name David F Preston

City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Concerned Landowner

E-Mail Address David@PrestonInsuranceAgency.com

Comments I writing to you, pleading for some common sense on the proposed changes to the allowed rifle calibers for deer hunting in my home state of Indiana.
I own a SMALL parcel of land ,out-side my home town of Kendallville. I have brought my children (3 girls) up around the hunting and outdoor sports that I was raised up doing. Safety...Safety....Safety, you only get 1 Chance 1 Life. All around my property, large open fields of picked corn or beans and lease's or owners farm hands with guns looking to fill their freezers like the rest of us. Allowing them to shoot @ 500-1000 yards across open country is asking for a disaster to happen. Hunting from ground blinds have become very popular in the past few years, and the "Camo-tents" can blend into the background so well that @ a extreme distance they are not noticeable but hold our daughters/grandsons and wives.

In closing I would like to say I represent DU @ the local level,,,Indiana Lion's Club @ the local level,,,Local Eagles Lodge and I have not heard 1 person that is for or happy about the proposed change in calibers for the Legal firearms season 2015.

We've cut the deer herd by 60% in my area already...CWD/Blue Tongue,,,and Doe permits. We need some conservation here !!

PS. I'm also a Local Insurance Agency Owner,,,I see a huge difference in the Deer/Car hits. I'm sure this was alittle of the motivation to cut down the herd in Noble,Lagrange,Stuben Counties.

OK,,,Back to work for me,,,Please understand it's a safety issue,,,nothing more,nothing less !

David F Preston 260-347-2264 @ my office

Comment Received 12/18/2014 12:01:33 PM

Commenter Name mark havens

City greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mhavens4@hotmail.com

Comments this is simple, the use of high powered rifles must be used in areas where there is a back stop or somekind (hills, trees, etc.) the ycannot be used in counties with no hilly terrain or deep woods for the bullet would carry to far and possibly kill someone

Its common sense ! So for them to be legalized here in Indiana it needs to be in counties such as Brow, Morgan Monroe, Greene to name a few that I know of. as for the coloum I read in the newspaper, they use hi powered rifles all over the country, if they kill more nimals then they just do, that doesn't make them bad,

thank you for your time.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 12:19:52 PM

Commenter Name Diana Leffel

City Albion **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) farm owner

E-Mail Address dannyrea@ligtel.com

Comments I own 98 acres that is hunted by permission only. I feel high powered rifles are not appropriate because there are too many homes close by. This is a recipe for disaster.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 12:42:24 PM

Commenter Name Cory Smith

City Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address jeepman812@aol.com

Comments I believe if a rifle season should come into effect, it should coincide with firearms season. I also think Indiana should do away with the online check in of game and take away the bonus antlerless season. Also take a look at each counties quo ta every year. I feel like a lot of people don't check in game and that's reflecting that no deer are being taken.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 1:00:18 PM

Commenter Name joe mc dill

City salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** in.

E-Mail Address jmcidill@salemschools.com

Comments I agree with the proposed changes in deer hunt regulation , including the "rifle rule" . A careless person is dangerous with any weapon . I once had a trespasser blast away at a group of doe deer between he and I . I could see 12 ga. slugs cutting brush all around my tree stand . I didn't feel one bit safer because he had a "limited range" gun ! By the same token , a careful person will hunt safely with any gun Thank You for listening .

Comment Received 12/18/2014 1:07:27 PM

Commenter Name Robert Davis

City Greencastle County PUTNAM State Indiana

E-Mail Address pittedpipes@gmail.com

Comments I am against removing the maximum rifle cartridge length specification of 1.8 inches. While I own such a rifle, I would not feel comfortable hunting with it in Indiana, and certainly would not feel safe if such were in use around me. As to the objection that a 12-gauge slug is too "shoulder slamming," smaller gauges are available down to the .410 (I favor 20 gauge). Indiana is not a plains state; most shots come well within reach of a sabot, but a high-powered bullet could well pass clean through a deer and end up in the next county.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 1:46:36 PM

Commenter Name Justin Funk

City Angola County STEUBEN State Indiana

E-Mail Address jcfunk484@gmail.com

Comments The proposal to allow "high-powered" rifles for deer hunting is ridiculous, dangerous, ignorant, and reckless. As an avid hunter, fisher, shooting sports enthusiast (long range shooting included), and overall outdoorsman, I can't imagine that anyone who actually spends any time in the woods during Indiana's deer firearm season would find this proposal to be a good idea. The part of me that is a hunter and shooting enthusiast would love to be able to use these firearms for deer hunting. The logical, safety concerned part of me is telling me that the state of Indiana is not suitable (too dense of a human population) for this change. Please don't allow this proposal to become a rule.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 1:48:41 PM

Commenter Name Matthew Love

City Angola County STEUBEN State IN

E-Mail Address matt@ljca.org

Comments I am commenting on the proposed rule change for high powered rifles being permitted for deer hunting. The only way this makes sense to me is that there is gain for someone financially because this proposed rule change would not be a gain for the hunter or the deer. The states that allow high powered rifles have large areas that are not heavily populated or mountainous. Most of Indiana does not have either of these areas. Many of the areas that I hunt and many people I know are small 10 to 20 acre areas surrounded by houses, roads, and businesses. I use a muzzleloader to hunt with but the velocity of a muzzle loading bullet has a much greater drop than a high powered rifle. It would be unsafe and not responsible for me to hunt these areas with a high powered rifle. What about the hunter who is unsafe and not responsible. I want to know who I am hunting with, I will have no idea now about the irresponsible hunter a mile away using a high powered rifle. My children hunt with me if this law passes not only would I not want them in the woods with me but I would not even want them outside during deer season! Second, We do not need more firearms to take deer with. You said it yourself in 2012 we had a record number of deer taken. The DNR is supposed to manage the deer herd for the health of the herd not the wants and desires of the hunter. The desire of the hunter is why the population of wildlife tanked in the first place. History repeats itself specifically when man gets greedy.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 2:45:46 PM

Commenter Name David Gruber

City Elkhart County ELKHART State Indiana

E-Mail Address dmgruber1@gmail.com

Comments I own a .35 cal Marlin (Brush Gun) as does my father. We are not able to hunt in Indiana due to the current regulations. I am in favor of the current proposal that allows such rifles to be used.

Thank you for your consideration.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 2:58:54 PM

Commenter Name Jacob hoffman

City winamac County PULASKI State Indiana

E-Mail Address tdh5716@gmail.com

Comments Dear Indiana DNR commission, I've deer hunted since the very first season Indiana has had and still hunt today. I deeply oppose the use of rifles to hunt deer. I'm a farmer, landowner, and hunter and do not allow these already legal rifles and pistols to be used on my ground. I'm concerned for the safety of other hunters, homes, livestock etc. Your justification to allow it is a stretch. Most muzzle loaders effective range under 200 yards not 600. Shotguns maybe 150 yards at best. For the neighboring states none allow rifles besides the big woods of northern Michigan. We've already have a declining deer population to work with I think the use of rifles would be harmful to the deer population, enjoyment of hunting deer, and safety of the residents. The thought of this going through sickens me and would make me dread next years deer season. I wouldn't feel safe letting my grandkids hunt in gun season with some of little parcels of land that would have hunters with rifles blasting away its bad enough the way its now. I think our gun season is to long already. I'm assuming gun season would be dropped to a week or less if rifles are used. If you want to compare other neighboring states look at their limited gun seasons, yet they are controlling deer populations and growing bigger bucks. Shorter gun seasons and not in rut with shotguns. Thanks please listen to the hunters on this one.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 3:26:56 PM

Commenter Name Victor Foltz

City Ft. Wayne County ALLEN State INDIANA

E-Mail Address vfoltz655@gmail.com

Comments Please do not change the rule to allow high-powered rifles in hunting. It is dangerous to the public and to the

deer. It is unsportsmanlike.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 6:08:01 PM

Commenter Name Scott Ogg

City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** IN

E-Mail Address scottogg98@yahoo.com

Comments I don't want to see High Powered rifles used in Indiana. The land is to flat and this is way to dangerous. please say NO. is

Comment Received 12/18/2014 6:25:11 PM

Commenter Name Mark George

City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** IN

E-Mail Address clangeorge@hotmail.com

Comments Making high power rifles legal in the northeast part of the state is an accident waiting to happen. Woods throughout the region are dotted with hunter orange; houses are no more than 1/2 mile apart. I have spoken to at least 50 hunters around our area, and not a single person thinks this is a good idea. Someone will be killed while hunting and houses will be damaged by stray bullets. I strongly urge you to reconsider allowing hunters to use high powered rifles during deer season.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 7:08:23 PM

Commenter Name John T. Corak

City Hebron **County** PORTER **State** IN

E-Mail Address jtcorak@hotmail.com

Comments I feel that any rifles used for deer hunting in Indiana should only be chambered for revolver type pistol calibers such as .357 and .44. Any centerfire rifle in a .22 caliber (.222, .223, 22-250 etc) are too small to be effective on deer. I also feel that any larger centerfire rifles (.243 and larger) that are commonly used in less populated states should not be allowed. Our original rules for using shotguns and muzzleloaders were based on the safety of our residents. This should not be forgotten just to please people who want to use high powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. Modern shotguns and muzzleloaders, with a little practice, are capable of taking any deer within reasonable range. Most deer hunting in Indiana is a short range wooded affair. Three hundred to five hundred yard shots, even for people that hunt fields, are rarely necessary. I feel that allowing high powered rifles will not only endanger our residents but will also increase the number of wounded deer due to hunters feeling that they are capable of shooting at ranges beyond their abilities. Let's work to keep kill percentages high and to ensure the safety of our fellow Hoosiers. Long range hunting is not what Indiana is about. Thank you for allowing me to comment on this issue. John T. Corak

Comment Received 12/18/2014 9:10:31 PM

Commenter Name David Cook

City Selma **County** DELAWARE **State** IN

E-Mail Address dacshoot@aol.com

Comments approve of rule allowing high power rifles for deer and closing ruffed grouse season.

Comment Received 12/18/2014 10:10:47 PM

Commenter Name RICH FROMME

City Dale **County** SPENCER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rfromme@psci.net

Comments I strongly support the proposed rule changes that allow the use of some standard rifle firearms for deer hunting. Some local hunters proclaim that the ranges here in so. Indiana are suited for short range weapons, and those in no. Indiana desire a longer range. Some hunters feel that the use of long range weapons (rifles) gives the hunter an unfair advantage in the field, however I feel that using firearms that are capable of greater accuracy for shot placement at any range (close or long range) may reduce the occurrence of deer run off. If the argument is that the deer harvest will increase due to greater number of deer being killed with rifles (unfair advantage), then you must also acknowledge there is an unknown number of deer that are hit then run off and die (poor shot placement) that are not counted in the annual harvest numbers (allowing the hunter to kill additional deer). It might be that this rule change would not change the harvest of deer, rather it may provide an accurate harvest number, less deer lying in the woods (uncounted). as long as the new rule allows those hunters who prefer using shotguns or muzzleloaders to continue with these firearms, it should not adversely effect their hunting experience. Using a 30.06 at shotgun ranges is just as effective as any slug on the market today. In conclusion, because of greater shot placement, this rule change may allow for more deer being shot in the lungs and drug out for processing, than those shot in the gut and left for the scavengers to enjoy.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 12:05:14 AM

Commenter Name Josh Clemence

City Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address joshclemence8@gmail.com

Comments This rifle change is an awful idea. It is not needed. Beyond the safety concerns, just look at the quality of the hunting in almost every state that has a rifle season. Michigan and Pennsylvania are both awful compared to our wonderful state. Rifle is part of the reason.

If you want to pass something useful, how about reducing the # of days gun hunting is allowed.

Do not make this change..

Comment Received 12/19/2014 7:06:36 AM

Commenter Name mark kazmierczak

City granger **County** ELKHART **State** indiana

E-Mail Address huntcrazy@sbcglobal.net

Comments I feel the new proposal to allow 243 rifles and up would be very dangerous as it stands all of the rifles including the new wildcat hoosier 358 have a sustained distance of under 1000 yrd. before it hits the ground a .243 with a 115 gr. bullet can travel over a mile also most for most people shooting 300 plus yrd. is almost impossible accurately which with long range rifles in hand they will try leading to more wounded deer for these reasons I feel there are other calibers that would fit the needed shorter distance of travel to keep the deer hunting safe for everyone but not any rifle over .243 and up thank you ,MARK KAZMIERCZAK GRANGER INDIANA.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 7:32:43 AM

Commenter Name William T Williams

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** In

E-Mail Address troyjill81597@comcast.net

Comments Cut back on all antlerless permits herd is the lowest i seen in 20 years of hunting. Allow high power rifles with no restrictions in all counties. Allow man made habait in all public state owned waters to help the states fisheries population of all fish

Comment Received 12/19/2014 8:21:27 AM

Commenter Name Jeremy stewart

City Shelbyville **County** SHELBY **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jw_stewart32@att.net

Comments We do not need any more caliber additions. No high powered rifles needed. To many deer are being killed of. Need less bonus antler less tags per county. And a state wide maximum put into place

Comment Received 12/19/2014 8:35:09 AM

Commenter Name Dean Farr

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address dean.farr@sbcglobal.net

Comments I oppose allowing rifles to hunt deer for safety issue and giving the hunter an unfair advantage.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 8:48:36 AM

Commenter Name Christopher Cherrone

City Lakeville **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address christophersr@myself.com

Comments I hear people talking about safety concerns. Today's shotguns and black powder rifles used for hunting deer can NOT be construed as less dangerous then a rifle such as a .308. Safety is safety. Know your target and dont fire unless you are on target.

As far as a "fair chance" to the game that is not even relevant. We are out there to bag a deer. We want to use the best weapon we can to get a clean kill. For those of us that are disabled the .308 rifle is that weapon. It is used as the firearm of choice by thousands of hunters in several other states. Why not here?

Comment Received 12/19/2014 9:22:36 AM

Commenter Name Andy Fountain

City Freetown **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address k12lts@gmail.com

Comments I fully support the change in firearm regulations to allow a centerfire cartridge of .243 or larger in the deer firearm season

Comment Received 12/19/2014 9:48:54 AM

Commenter Name James Phares

City Westville **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jimphares@icloud.com

Comments Regarding the proposed rifle hunting for deer

For the last 35 years I have been a freelance writer, photographer and taxidermist. Starting at an early age I have been an avid hunter, trapper and fisherman here in Indiana. My hunting has even included over forty trips outside of Indiana and over half of those outside of the U.S.

I have never hunted anywhere else(with the exception of lower Michigan) where big game hunting excluded modern rifles. Even in densely populated Europe hunters use modern rifles.

Many countries do not even allow bow hunting considering it inhumane and an inadequate means of taking big game.

If muzzle loaders, handguns and shotguns put a limit on successful hunting maybe we should have never have been forced to them in the first place.

We owe it to the animals that we hunt to kill them by the most humane methods available and that is modern rifles.

Most states and foreign countries hunt big game with modern rifles and they have not wiped out all of their wildlife.

Many of the arguments that I am reading from people opposed to rifle hunting are the same as the opposition to crossbows. They were wrong then and they are wrong now.

If we kill too many deer the bag limits should be adjusted not the methods of hunting.

I believe that more deer that are shot at will be recovered if they are shot with modern rifles. Modern rifles offer more accurate shots with more energy and better bullets. Only ignorance would oppose that.

I have met many people who get the opportunity to hunt out of state or out of the country and never have had experience with modern rifles because of our restrictions.

Why should landowners have restrictions on what firearms they can hunt deer with on their own property or what they allow other people to use. The restrictions don't apply to any other game mammal.

It is time that we enter the twenty first century and hunt our deer by the most efficient humane means available.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 10:50:46 AM

Commenter Name Beth Conway

City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** IN

Organization (optional) Corrymela Farm

E-Mail Address Corrymela@gmail.com

Comments I strongly oppose the allowance of high powered rifles for deer hunting. Noble country already has a high number of deer hunters and being a country where a great number of people hunt because of the high deer population, the last thing we need are weapons whose ammo travels miles. The city is populated enough that someone will be killed or wounded as we cut eood, hike. RIDE or hirses or work or dogs. We all fear being outdoors now as so many hunters ate eager to make a shot. I don't want to wear bullet proof vests nor can I afford to keep my livestock inside. There are no relevant studies that show the use in densely populated areas is safe. Please do not pass this !

Comment Received 12/19/2014 12:10:11 PM

Commenter Name colin funk

City angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address funkniloc@aol.com

Comments I am against allowing high-powered rifles for deer hunting. where I live it is too open and to heavily populated. there are too many small hunted parcels in my area, the firearms that are now allowed are quite adequate to hunt deer, adding high-powered rifles would be severe overkill and I think very detrimental to the deer population. regarding these concerns I hope very much that you do NOT let this proposal go through.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 12:11:06 PM

Commenter Name John D. Ulmer

City G0shen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address julmer@yaub.com

Comments I am 76 years of age and have hunted all my life and throughout the world. I am in favor of b eing able to hunt deer with a rifle larger then .243. Such a rifle would be more efficient in the killing of a deer and would have less recoil than a shotgun. I appreciate the time and effort spent on proposing this rule.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 12:30:43 PM

Commenter Name Debra Vice

City Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address inarcher@c3bb.com

Comments I am writing in opposition to long range high power rifles for deer hunting. I don't hunt, but my husband is an avid deer hunter. He stopped hunting on opening weekend of gun season more than 20 years ago. I still remember some of his stories.

We live in a rural area. We should be able to rake leaves in our yard during deer season and still feel safe. Are you willing to be held accountable for injuries or deaths resulting from rifle use? If not, what gives you the right to pursue this ridiculous proposal?

Comment Received 12/19/2014 1:59:11 PM

Commenter Name robert hall
City Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address rmhall57@hotmail.com
Comments We have a 120 farm in Whitley County. We are AGAINST THE NEW PROPOSED RULE FOR LARGER CAL. rifles being used to hunt deer. The point of shooting down as a justification is very poor. Many use ground blinds today. We WILL NOT ALLOW hunting or retrieving of deer on our land if any hunters ARE using these hight powered cal. Most of Indiana is too densely populated and shots over 100 yds CAN BE uncalled for and dangerous. Too many hunter are not going to follow safety rules with a long reach gun and a large buck with in the range for that gun. TY
Comment Received 12/19/2014 2:42:43 PM

Commenter Name Jim Foreman
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address jcforeman5@yahoo.com
Comments I am against any legislation that would allow the use of a firearm (rifle) that would shoot a bullet larger than a .243. As an individual who hunts primary public ground I believe this would present to many safety issues. I often see groups of hunters putting on "deer drives" on public property which result in alot of gun fire at running deer with little or not thought as to what is beyond the game they are shooting at. I personally would give up hunting for deer during the shot gun season if this law was passed due to safety issues.
Comment Received 12/19/2014 3:10:45 PM

Commenter Name Thomas E Trowbridge Sr
City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tomet1@att.net
Comments Commission member's In reference to the use of high Power rifles for deer hunting,I have been a hunter for nearly 70 years, do you realize the safety concerns? Indiana is too populated for this type of gun.These high power guns carry too far.
 thank you,
 Thomas E Trowbridge Sr.
Comment Received 12/19/2014 3:58:56 PM

Commenter Name Michael Coburn
City Speed **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address irapappy@yahoo.com
Comments Concerning centerfire cartridge use for deer hunting - when I lived in Virginia in the 1970's they had different rules for different areas. For instance, in the eastern swamps you could only use shotguns with buckshot. In the piedmont, you could use shotguns with slugs and in the mountains, you could use centerfire rifles. Indiana might adopt a similar rule where you can use centerfire cartridges in some counties and not others.
Comment Received 12/19/2014 4:18:43 PM

Commenter Name Ben Johnson
City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address johnbm01@gmail.com
Comments To whom it may concern,

 I support the rule change allowing "high powered" rifles for use during the firearms season for deer hunting. I would like to see however, the type of rifle limited to manually operated actions, or limit magazine capacities of semi-auto rifles to 5 rounds. I believe these small changes to the current proposal would serve as a small assurance to those that oppose the rule change, detract those that would use 30 round magazines, and still appeal to those ethical hunters in favor of the change.

 Thank you,

 Ben Johnson
Comment Received 12/19/2014 4:39:18 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Elson
City Galveston **County** CASS **State** IN - Indiana
E-Mail Address ryan.elson@aol.com
Comments I am writing in reference to the rule change for rifle cartridges for deer hunting. The number 1 reason I am against this rule is the danger to non hunters in the line of fire. The guns of the new caliber fir at to great of a distance for Indiana. Where I live I am never in a position I am not firing towards homes within a mile. Indiana is to flat and to populated without forests to handle these calibers. I am personally against the .357 rifles. I have one and will not use it because I have seen what it cam do. You are assuming every hunter will think of his bullet path when firing!

 Also the rule that went into affect on deer check in. Really not going well! People are killing bucks and checking them in as doe.

We have to start doing better with our hunting conservation before we look back and regret some decisions we have made. From our area hunters are seeing a 1/4 of the deer they have seen in the past. The last 2 years our deer population has decreased by over half in our area. With record deer being harvested we are expecting our deer heard to be dismal in the next few years and are putting a ban on doe killing in our woods.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 5:22:41 PM

Commenter Name Lerry Holladay
City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana
E-Mail Address lholladay@mintel.net

Comments Hunting of deer in Indiana should not be permitted at any time and for any reason. Density of deer herds in any area are governed not by hunting but by environmental and health conditions (see Environmental Science 101). This is a particularly hazardous "sport" (note the deer have no way to protect themselves) in dense population areas like Tippecanoe County.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 6:23:51 PM

Commenter Name tom zennie
City cloverdale County PUTNAM State Indiana
E-Mail Address tmzennie@ccrtc.com

Comments I am completely against IAC 312 IAC 9-3-3. I am a deer hunter and I came from southern Michigan. I think center fire large caliber HP rifles will be too dangerous for use in Indiana. Also how will you control magazine capacity for the deer rifles like an AK 47 with a 20-30 cartridge capacity. I hear many deer hunter emptying their shotguns at running deer. If this were a high powered rifle how would the farms and interstate highways remain safe?

Comment Received 12/19/2014 7:35:41 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Fisher
City Jeffersonville County CLARK State IN - Indiana
E-Mail Address kbfisher888@hotmail.com

Comments In response to Section 5: 312 1AC 9-3-3 Subsection (D) (4):

I am AGAINST the use of rifles during the deer hunting season. I feel that the state is too densely populated and flat which in turn may warrant injury to property and or human life.

If these rules are accepted I hope the blaze orange requirements will increase to more coverage on the hunter. Required vest and hat.

It may be beneficial, if accepted, to institute a very short trial period for rifle. For example, the first weekend ONLY of bonus antler less only season.

Thanks for consideration,

Kevin Fisher

Comment Received 12/19/2014 10:35:49 PM

Commenter Name Ron Blackwell
City Frankfort County CLINTON State Indiana
E-Mail Address Rblackwell86@gmail.com

Comments I have concerns about allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting. I hunt in an area that sounds like a war zone on opening day of firearms season. It is quite common to hear volleys of 4 or 5 shots as some idiot empties his magazine on deer running through the woods. Do we really want to put a 30-06 in the hands of someone like that? Their "technique" is not going to change. This would have to be much more dangerous than the 500 yd muzzleloader example given. A muzzleloader is one shot and most hunters will try to make sure that one shot is a good one. An individual as described above will be throwing 30-06 rounds recklessly throughout the landscape. That would have to be much more dangerous to other hunters as well as the general public.

Comment Received 12/19/2014 11:10:27 PM

Commenter Name Scott J. Smith
City Terre Haute County VIGO State Indiana
E-Mail Address scott.smith@hepn.com

Comments I'm in opposition of the proposed rule for deer rifle cartridges, 312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3(d)(4)(A). Current laws have allowed the reduction in Indiana's deer population to reach their management goal or at least head in that direction. While I don't think that the use of proposed rifle rounds would decimate the herd, it could have a substantial impact on it.

Also, much of the deer hunting in our state takes place near some type of residential area. There will be a greater risk of hunting related accidents with the long range rifles suggested. There are already many choices for firearms season other than shotguns and slugs. And while it is true that modern muzzle-loading firearms are comparable to some longer range rifles, they are not repeaters, allowing for multiple projectiles hurling in potentially unsafe directions.

Please don't allow this. We don't need them in our deer season.

Thank you.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 7:16:26 AM

Commenter Name Joshua Hendricks

City north vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** In

E-Mail Address jhendricks1985@gmail.com

Comments I have been a avid hunter since I was 7 . I have deer hunted every year since then . I think rule 3121ac 9-3-3. High power rifle for deer hunting is a fine idea. Most shots from deer hunter are fired from a tree stand which in turn the bullet goes at a angle and hits the ground its common since. And all legal hunting rounds for high power rifles are designed to expand and flatten out . in turn I do not see any any more dangerous than a large 12 or 20 gauge slug that slams threw brush because of the sheer size of the projectile. Like I said common sense its harder to stop a locomotive than a compact car bec cause of the weight behind it simple physics. I am all for rifle hunting in Indiana I think I would give younger hunters more accurate way to hunt and not hurt there shoulders from slugs and such. I truly hope it goes threw !!!!!. I'd love to use my good old marlin 35 rem to hunt with or my 243 . thanks for your time ! I hope the new rule goes threw!!

Comment Received 12/20/2014 8:31:51 AM

Commenter Name billy fields

City north vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** In

E-Mail Address Debbie.fields6@frontier.com

Comments I'm for the rule 9-3-3 high power rifle for Indiana deer hunting. I say Indiana should do this it only makes sense . its no more dangerous than a shot gun slug or a muzzle loader that's almost the same as a rifle . plus all the wild cat cartridges that have the same muzzle velocities of a high power rifle and they are legal.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 8:46:19 AM

Commenter Name Jaymes Barrera

City Wheatfield **County** JASPER **State** IN

E-Mail Address Jamieebarrera@inbox.com

Comments Aside from the proposed rifle changes, I would say that the proposal is in the best interest of the hunters, community, and the wildlife you manage. The proposed rifle rule is a very scary proposition for the county I am in at a minimum and in my opinion a reckless disregard for public and hunter well being. This area is flat as is comes, couple this with high hunter density and you have created a situation that I do not want to participate in. At least one of our neighboring states have enough common sense to limit rifle usage to specific counties. As a final statement, I am completely opposed to any changes to the rifle restriction rules.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 11:21:08 AM

Commenter Name Gayle Gardner

City Richmond **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address crgard1595@aol.com

Comments I am opposed to 312 IAC 9-3-3 Section 3 d 4A both A & C which permits any rifle over .243 & no maximum case length. I feel very strongly that this is a safety issue.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 11:29:49 AM

Commenter Name Mike Jackson

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mwjackson1@sbcglobal.net

Comments I strongly disagree with changing:312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, to allow larger rifle cartridges for deer hunting. The increased distance that the bullet will shoot is not necessary and in my opinion adds danger. There are many houses that would be in the line of site that could be shot due to careless hunters. The current regulations are fine just the way they are. Please do not change this to create unnecessary danger while hunting.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 12:05:25 PM

Commenter Name Robert King

City Tipton **County** TIPTON **State** indiana

E-Mail Address ugnx1man@yahoo.com

Comments I think the rule change is good, people already use rifle cartridges in pistols

Muzzleloaders shoot smokeless powder at 300 yards,
It won't change a thing but more accurate shots.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 2:07:17 PM

Commenter Name Michael Heastan

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mheastan414@gmail.com

Comments Hello, I am commenting on the proposal to allow larger cal. Rifles for Deer hunting. I believe we are all ready taking to many deer as it is. Allowing larger cal. rifles will only make it easier, plus this state is densely populated. Some one (not even a hunter) is going to get shot by somebody's lack of good judgement. We should leave the cal. just where its at, NOTHING LARGER!

Thank You

Comment Received 12/20/2014 7:09:15 PM

Commenter Name Bryan Busse

City Knox County STARKE State Indiana

E-Mail Address captbryan@hotmail.com

Comments I am all for the rifle changes, however I feel our season needs to be shortened to a week or something similar to illinois with a couple long weekends. The .243 is perfect for youth or anyone really and that is fine but it worries me that a .338 Lapua or 50 BMG could be used!

Comment Received 12/20/2014 10:12:21 PM

Commenter Name Mark Dugan

City Sullivan County SULLIVAN State Indiana

E-Mail Address mdugan16@yahoo.com

Comments I am not in favor of letting the use of all center fire cartridges over 243 caliber in our firearm season there is some calibers that would be fine in the state of Indiana in my opinion calibers like the 30/30 or the 35 Remington would be just fine. I think that we just have to high of a population at least where we hunt at.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 10:16:34 PM

Commenter Name William L Jaones

City Mddlebury County ELKHART State Indiana

E-Mail Address beejay541210@aol.com

Comments The proposal changes the barrel length to 18 inches minimum while striking the shoulder option in 312 IAC 933 section 3(d) 2D. This would make current 16 inch barrel deer rifles illegal, like the 458 socom. These rifles are expensive, and a lot of people bought them for hunting deer. Leave that section unchanged from current rules.

Comment Received 12/20/2014 11:58:07 PM

Commenter Name Tsoelopele Mukwena

City South Bend County ST.JOSEPH State Indiana

Organization (optional) Federal Mogul

E-Mail Address mukwenat@hotmail.com

Comments The proposed rules changes don't seem to touch on the subject of Air Rifles for deer hunting. I would to see PCP Air rifles or other types of high powered air rifles with calibers of 243 or 357 and above be allowed for take deer in Indiana. At the very least this should be worth a discussion. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/21/2014 12:07:33 AM

Commenter Name Steve Walker

City Corydon County HARRISON State IN

E-Mail Address stevewalker67@gmail.com

Comments I am in 100% agreement with this rule change. As DNR states, modern muzzleloaders have the ballistic capability of fire a round at distances very similar to those in the proposed rule. Also, I strongly feel the amount of deer wounded when shot at distances of 150-200 yds will result in a higher percentage of deer kills.

Comment Received 12/21/2014 7:55:21 AM

Commenter Name Nick Jones

City Goshen County ELKHART State Indiana

E-Mail Address Jonez24@me.com

Comments I would like to see the minimum barrel length be set at 16 inches to help encourage more youth hunters. A gun with a 16" barrel is much more suited to the smaller hunters.

Comment Received 12/21/2014 8:45:52 AM

Commenter Name Randall Leer

City Bristol County ELKHART State Indiana

E-Mail Address ransanleer@comcast.net

Comments I think being able to use rifle cartridges like the 45/70 Govt and 444 Marlin wouldn't hurt anything. You can already use a 35 Remington in a Contender pistol...Why not a rifle. These 3 cartridges would work great in our state. These are all brush cartridges.

Comment Received 12/21/2014 11:27:30 AM

Commenter Name Mark Hedges

City Plymouth County MARSHALL State Indiana

E-Mail Address mandjhedges@embarqmail.com

Comments I would like to thank you for allowing comments on the proposed rule changes. I am against allowing rifle cartridges of 243 and larger for several reasons, First there is a large safety concern of mine using rifle calibers 243 and larger could have cause a bullet to travel near a mile and

strike someone else's property or even worse striking someone causing injury or death.
 Secondly it would allow hunters to shoot farther which would allow them to shoot across property lines and since Indiana has mostly small acreage parcels not like the western states with many areas just a single landowner owning tens of thousands of acres. The deer herd in Indiana has been declining the last couple years and adding rifles to the gun season will reduce the herd in many areas effecting the number of deer to very low numbers. Thus making it very difficult for youth and new hunters to become interested in deer hunting if there are to few deer seen to keep there interest. I have lived on the same 104 rural acres for 27 years and have not seen the deer herd this low in over 20 years and very concerned hunter and land owner.
 I am speaking for many friends and neighbors that are elderly that do not have computers and cannot travel to make comments but we all share the same concerns.
 Thank You
 Mark Hedges
Comment Received 12/21/2014 12:04:28 PM

Commenter Name joseph weber
City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** in
E-Mail Address joemweb@gmail.com
Comments i do not agree with changing the type of high power rifles that are currently legal. i think the new proposal will encourage more long distance shooting at deer by people who are not qualified in the use of these rifles. i also think poachers will take advantage of this rule change. thank you.
Comment Received 12/21/2014 12:07:35 PM

Commenter Name Steve Pylant
City Leesburg **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN
E-Mail Address Steven.Pylant@yahoo.com
Comments After traveling 500 yards, a 7mm magnum hunting round will still have almost 3 times the velocity, over 5 times the energy, and only 13% drop of a .44 magnum round shot from a rifle. The 7mm performance advantage over shotgun slugs or muzzle loaded rifles is even greater. When fired from a crouched position with an 8 to 10 degree elevation, a 7mm, or any other high-powered rifle bullet, can easily travel well over a mile with completely unpredictable and possibly lethal results. Considering our population density, generally flat topography, and shrinking rural areas, please don't jeopardize the safety of all for the sake of providing relatively few with a risky and unnecessary option to harvest deer.
Comment Received 12/21/2014 1:32:11 PM

Commenter Name Alex koontz
City Churubusco **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Alex.koontz@aol.com
Comments I have been hunting with my dad and family for the last 3 years.and I have not seen a lot of deer and have had no opportunities with my bow. I believe with the deer getting sick a few years ago and the amount of deer the dnr lets get taken year after year that the DNR is ruining our herd size! I would really like to see more deer and be able to get my first deer and if you allow the rifle rule change this will only become dangerous but more deer will be killed! Please shrink the gun season and move it back if you pass the rule! Thanks
Comment Received 12/21/2014 1:53:23 PM

Commenter Name Susan Catterall
City Hamilton **County** STEUBEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address scatterall60@gmail.com
Comments I am opposed to the passing of legislation to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting. I live in a wooded area and am surrounded by hunters. I have children and I keep them in close proximity of our house during hunting season but right now I can look out my kitchen window and see a hunting blind straight across the swamp. With a high powered rifle, those bullets could easily reach my house. Please vote against this legislation. The wants of a few with money should not take precedence over the safety of the people of our state.
Comment Received 12/21/2014 3:46:47 PM

Commenter Name Lindsay Reinhold
City Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address lindsayreinhold@frontier.com
Comments To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Steuben County (consistently one of the top Indiana counties in whitetail deer harvested annually), a school teacher, and a lifelong hunter, I join many of my fellow Hoosier outdoorsmen and women in opposing any changes to Indiana's ban on high-powered deer hunting rifles.

The first and ultimate issue is SAFETY. My family owns 80 acres of hunting ground surrounded by sparse woods, CRP, crop fields, and several farm houses, only a half mile from State Road 120 and a mere mile from the Indiana Toll Road. Even for trained and practiced marksmen, this flat, open terrain and close proximity to major roads, cars, and family dwellings make our "slice of heaven" (as well as most of the northern half of our state) geographically unsuitable for long-distance, flat-shooting firearms. Exacerbating this concern is the sheer number of deer hunters packed into tight areas; on any given weekend in November, there are roughly 15-20 hunters hunting with firearms within a square half-mile of my tree stand. For decades these close neighbors have safely and effectively filled their tags with slug guns. Please do not tempt them into taking irresponsible, long-range or misplaced shots with large caliber, center-fire rifles. A few additional deer taken in Indiana at 200-plus yards is simply not worth the risk to other hunters, passing motorists, and many of my students and their families who live in farmhouses nearby.

The second major concern is the current health of Indiana's deer herd. As is the case in many regions of the country right now, Northeast Indiana landowners and hunters continue to report seeing fewer and fewer deer, both on our hunts and on our roads. This is partly due to natural scourges like EHD (which decimated certain areas of Steuben County two years ago), but it is also directly due to DNR experiments in recent years that allowed crossbow use during archery season, that added special antlerless seasons, etc. Please allow time—a few years at least—to fully study and evaluate the effect of these other very recent changes on herd and harvest numbers before loosening additional hunting restrictions. Taking the time to carefully study herd numbers is not only responsible animal and habitat management, but it may also help the DNR restore vital trust with Indiana hunters. After all, vast numbers of Hoosier outdoorsmen and women like me have voiced strong opposition to the DNR's liberalization of hunting seasons and weapons in the past, only to be disgusted by allegations of our survey results being "fudged" and news that our public opinion continues to be overridden by bureaucratic votes.

The DNR and hunters share the common goals of effectively managing herd numbers, increasing the quality of deer harvested, and maintaining hunter and public safety. Officials in neighboring Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan (where high-powered rifles are banned in the southern half of the state) have found ways to succeed at the first two goals without sacrificing the most important third one. Please follow their lead. Please listen to those of us in the fields and woods each fall. Keep Indiana's ban on high-powered deer rifles.

Lindsay Reinhold

Angola, Indiana

Comment Received 12/21/2014 5:33:51 PM

Commenter Name ron rensberger

City Argos County MARSHALL State IN

E-Mail Address brokenfarm@hoosierlink.net

Comments do not need to add high powered rifles to deer hunt indiana has to much population to allow this to pass. our rules as of now give us lots of firearms to choose from

Comment Received 12/21/2014 5:58:23 PM

Commenter Name Walter Lynn Harley

City Argos County MARSHALL State In

E-Mail Address l.harley@mchsi.com

Comments I'm in favor of these rules 3121AC9-4-11, 3121AC9-7-2,3121AC9-7-4, 3121AC9-7-10

Comment Received 12/21/2014 6:40:21 PM

Commenter Name Walter Lynn Harley

City Argos County MARSHALL State In

E-Mail Address l.harley@mchsi.com

Comments I'm in favor of these rules 3121AC9-4-11, 3121AC9-7-2,3121AC9-7-4, 3121AC9-7-10

Comment Received 12/21/2014 6:43:03 PM

Commenter Name James Jackson

City Wabash County WABASH State Indiana

E-Mail Address JimJackson@Live.com

Comments I want the high powered rule to pass. I think there should be a limitation for the Allen County Urban Deer Hunting Zone. I think the calibers and firearms that are in place are large enough. I use to live in Ft Wayne and New Haven. There is no area that is really safe from a 300 Win Mag within the confines of 469.Outside of that I think the areas are fine.

Comment Received 12/21/2014 8:11:19 PM

Commenter Name James Jackson

City Wabash County WABASH State Indiana

E-Mail Address jimjackson@live.com

Comments If the high powered rifle rule is approved there needs to be an increase in the number of square inches of hunter that must be worn. A full vest or coat/jacket should be worn rather than just a hat. It must be solid orange and not broken up. Please pass the high powered rifle rule.

Comment Received 12/21/2014 8:25:09 PM

Commenter Name David Alexander
City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dsedalexander@comcast.net
Comments In my option the current gun seasons are already too long in Indiana and start too early. I feel like I'm shooting not hunting. Most of the deer during firearm season are on the run. If we move to high powered rifles I hope we move the date to late November or early December and shorten the amount of days we hunt with these rifles. Something like Illinois and Ohio would be OK if we add high powered rifles. I think both Illinois and Ohio are better known states for deer hunting and bring in more out of state hunters (if that is one of the goals of adding these rifles).
Comment Received 12/21/2014 8:59:44 PM

Commenter Name kevin belter
City Batesville **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address belter947@yahoo.com
Comments I feel opening a high powered rifle season would be dangerous. And if it does get approved the firearms season needs to be reduced to one week. And I feel all people who hunt should be required to purchase a license whether you are a land owner or not. To many people own 2 acres hunt somewhere else and tag as they killed on they're own property. Thank you.
Comment Received 12/21/2014 10:14:04 PM

Commenter Name Paul Newland
City Huntingburg **County** DUBOIS **State** IN
E-Mail Address paulnewland@psci.net
Comments I wish to comment on 312 IAC 9-3-3
I am strongly in favor of allowing higher power rifles for deer hunting. I moved to Indiana from Missouri four years ago. I hunted in Missouri for almost 30 years with my 270 and was very accurate with it. I never lost a deer I shot. It has been a difficult transition for me to use a shotgun here in Indiana. I cannot achieve the accuracy with my shotgun that I did with my 270, and thus I don't have the confidence using my shotgun that I want to have while deer hunting. I would love to be able to use my 270 and regain the confidence I had all my years of hunting in Missouri.
I live and hunt in southern Indiana, and the terrain here is much like where I hunted in central Missouri. Even though rifle cartridges carry further than shotgun slugs, most deer hunting is done from elevated tree stands so an errant shot will hit the ground not much different from a slug.
Also, I believe we all know that most gun accidents happen to oneself, or one's hunting partners, through mishandling or carelessness while loading or unloading. I believe it is extremely rare that a rifle bullet that misses its intended target carries a great distance to injure someone far away.
I have no doubt that permitting the use of rifles would be a big boost to the economy in Indiana. I'm sure there would be a lot of people buying rifles and rifle ammunition. Once again, I am totally in favor of allowing rifles for deer hunting, and I hope the change will be made for the 2015 season.

Thank you,

Paul Newland

Comment Received 12/22/2014 12:12:45 AM

Commenter Name George Thielbar
City Sumava Resorts **County** NEWTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bukfever2@yahoo.com
Comments For the life of me I don't understand any need to allow rifles here in Indiana.
The calibers now allowed are more than sufficient for deer hunting and with the population growth through out this state and the lack of hunting opportunity that we now have I don't see any logical need for the addition of new calibers for deer.
The total number of deer is already declining at an alarming rate in most areas and this is not even a logical management decision.
It will be a matter of time before we have a few accidental deaths due to these new unneeded proposals.
Comment Received 12/22/2014 7:41:24 AM

Commenter Name dan zellers
City tell city **County** PERRY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dzellers@psci.net
Comments concerning high powered rifles. lets not create problems .we live in the heart of the national forest where hunter density is higher than deer density . these high powered rifel bullets can carry 1500, 2000 yds past there intended target! lets not put someone in danger of getting a stray bullet . shotgun slugs are more than effective at taking deer at reasonable distinces -150 yds but are out of gas at 300yds. in wooded areas ,about 150yds is all you see anyway due to brush and limbs.use of long range rifels will just encorage long shots ,resulting in more wounded deer, ricoced bulets and other unintended actions such as "road hunting"which is a problem already. use of high powered opens up other questions such as - urban deer zones ,state park hunts,military hunts ? lots to think about! im not at all aginst change but wy change something thats working safe, ethicle, for everyone. including the deer!
Comment Received 12/22/2014 8:55:47 AM

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|--|
| <p>Commenter Name William Kaufman City Shelburn County SULLIVAN State Indiana E-Mail Address scoutout325@hotmail.com Comments I propose the addition of magazine restrictions in addition to the changes proposed to 312 IAC 9-3-3 SEC 3(d)4. If hunting with a rifle during the firearms season a hunter should not be allowed to feed more than x (I propose 3) rounds into the rifle's magazine at one time. I propose this addition in order to prevent unsafe hunting situations. I believe firearms chambered in rifle caliber cartridges can safely be added to Indiana's lineup, however I feel in the spirit of fare chase and to offer added safety precaution a magazine restriction is warranted. This method has been employed under waterfowl hunting regulations for decades. It encourages the hunter to be more meticulous in his aim, and to take only the shots he is confident with. Further, by adding a magazine capacity to the proposed language changes it will prevent hunters from tracing deer across terrain with bullets, paying no attention to the bullet's backstop. Again, I feel rifles can safely be integrated in the firearms season but in the spirit of fare chase and safety would like to see a magazine restriction of 3-5 rounds. Comment Received 12/22/2014 12:35:58 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name farrel gosman City jasper County DUBOIS State in E-Mail Address mfgosman@frontier.com Comments I favor the proposed change in firearm deer hunting to permit the use of additional rifles. Comment Received 12/22/2014 2:42:24 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Lester Barto City Argos County MARSHALL State Indiana E-Mail Address lesterbarto@rtcol.com Comments I am in favor of allowing the use of high power rifle for deer hunting in Indiana. Comment Received 12/22/2014 2:44:38 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jeff Edward Flowers Jr City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana E-Mail Address jflow446@frontier.com Comments Please allow High Powered Rifles for use in Deer Hunting. They are much more accurate and will result in less wounding. Comment Received 12/22/2014 3:29:56 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Andrew Morrison, M.D. City Nashville County BROWN State IN E-Mail Address andymoinindy@aol.com Comments I spoke with about a dozen of my neighbor home owners and, with their permission to speak for all of us, I can guarantee you that we are strongly and unanimously against allowing the hunting of deer with a rifle in Indiana. We live "out in the boonies." We drive thru the woods, daily, where deer hunters are near the roads. Our homes are in the woods, and some of our home properties are just adjacent to public land. We realize that hunters, at times, will miss their targets, and their bullets will continue on -- as long as a mile. We are uptight, to say the least. We believe that allowing the use of rifles, for hunting deer, is too risky for people who live and recreate (EG hikers) in Indiana. Our state is too geographically compact, and our population is located too densely, to allow this change in the law. Out in "the old West" (EG Wyoming, Montana, etc), it's a different situation, but Indiana is different. We realize that there may be a need to limit the size of the deer herd if it is becoming too large, but we believe other means could be used without endangering the safety of our citizens. We feel there are others who agree with us, if they live (like we do) in hunted areas. (Though our mailing addresses are technically in Nashville, we are on the edge of Hoosier National Forest. We know others who live in hunted areas). Of note, we can see the hunters (in their orange) from our homes. Thank you for hearing us, and any of us would be happy to testify in person. Comment Received 12/22/2014 4:10:33 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Eric Reeck City Columbus County BARTHOLOMEW State IN E-Mail Address eric.reeck@sbcglobal.net Comments I agree with these rule changes; especially those regarding the change to allow 'high-powered' rifles for deer hunting. Comment Received 12/22/2014 5:51:17 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Rhoda Reyburn City Kokomo County HOWARD State Indiana E-Mail Address Rhoda01@comcast.net Comments I am a hunter and resident of Howard county. High powered rifles have no place in this state for hunting deer. While it would certainly be easier to harvest deer, it would dramatically increase the risk. We are too populated and already have trouble keeping poachers off our property. For safety sake, i hope you will reconsider this proposal. We have plenty of</p> |

options for deer already. I don't particularly like getting my shoulder slammed by a shotgun but I like getting shot by a poacher even less and the thought of one of my children getting shot while they are outside is even more abhorrent. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/22/2014 7:07:52 PM

Commenter Name James brown

City Moores Hill **County** DEARBORN **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address indiana1565@yahoo.com

Comments Rule 312Iac9-3-3

i like the rule and it will be of great benefit.

thank you

Comment Received 12/22/2014 7:50:02 PM

Commenter Name Perry Frey

City Lamar **County** SPENCER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pjfrey@psci.net

Comments On the proposed caliber change for rifle deer hunting, there is no need for it. If you cannot harvest a deer with the firearms that are allowed now, then you should not be hunting. With homes closer and closer to the woods, even more accidents may occur, know what is beyond your target before you fire. That bullet will travel farther than most people can see.

Comment Received 12/22/2014 9:56:18 PM

Commenter Name Alan Ball

City Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** IN

E-Mail Address alanbigball@yahoo.com

Comments After reading through the proposed language of 312 IAC 9-3-2, Section 2, subsection (p), I see that the language referring to the permanent metal seal received from a deer checking station has been struck. I assume this means that this rule change will do away with this system of metal tags received from the check station, and propose that all deer registration will be through the state's electronic harvest reporting system, regardless whether the deer are taken to a checking station or not.

I would like to voice my opposition to this change. I do welcome the electronic reporting system, as a more customer-friendly way for some deer hunters to register their deer. However, it is the loss of the physical metal tag that I will miss. I have been deer hunting for 23 years, and have killed 93 deer in that span. I have every metal tag from each and every one of those deer. Most of them have been antlerless deer, so the metal registration tags are the only 'trophy' I have of them. I have all 93 metal tags hanging in a display case, arranged by year. It makes a nice display, and it is a unique piece of décor in my home that shows off my many successes in the deer woods.

I would not be opposed to all-electronic check-in if there was still a way to get a metal tag. I would like to continue my collection of deer tags for many years to come. I'm 36 now, and I had hoped to continue adding tags to my collection for another 30 years or so.

Comment Received 12/22/2014 11:34:07 PM

Commenter Name Jeff McCormick

City Columbia city **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jeff.mccormick@embarqmail.com

Comments Not having a restriction on case length on rifles in Indiana is unsafe because the lack of hills and flat terrain (especially in central and northern Indiana). On the argu that there are muzzleloaders used that can shoot 300 and 400 yards, and pistols that can shoot 200 and 300 yards, the caliber of hunter that uses these costly guns are serious well experienced hunters. These are not weekend hunters. The price of this type of gun and the hand gun permit regulations deter the inexperienced hunter from using this type of gun. By legalizing high powered guns without case restrictions, you would allowing any hunter even that inexperienced hunter and his 11 year old son to use a 243 that shoots 300 to 400 yards. And because they have no recoil so they are "great" for kids to use. Some hunters don't use common sense and good hunter safety. This puts a kid in a bad situation. With Indiana having the type of terrain, A inexperienced hunter might find his long range gun caused a death. Some hunters don't think what is on the other side of their wood lot. A house. A barn . Also since these rifles like the 243, 308 can be purchased for 350.00. It makes for anyone that steps in the woods to have one. Even inexperienced kids. The custom muzzleloaders and high powered pistols cost so much that the hunter using this is more experienced . I am a 37 year hunter and I shoot one of these custom guns. My kids are avid hunters and the oldest has hunted for 11 years. But even with his experience I would not put a long range rifle in his hands. Not in Indiana with wood lot hunting. The 44 mag is basically a more appropriate round for young hunter.

Comment Received 12/22/2014 11:34:42 PM

Commenter Name Tony Nicpon

City Rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address thebiggame1@hotmail.com

Comments Do not allow the use of additional rifle calibers for deer hunting at this time. Deer populations have crashed in Newton, Lake, and Jasper counties (probably due to the blue tongue disease). There are very few deer in the fields in the

mornings and evenings as compared to previous years. It is rare to see a road killed deer this year compared to always seeing a few in previous years. Temporarily cut the bonus tags down to no more than two in these counties. Suspend the recently added antlerless gun season. Many hunters that I have talked with feel that the DNR is only out to make money. The best interest of the hunter or the game population has taken a back seat to revenue generation. Eliminate the crossbow license and allow the archery license to be used by crossbow hunters. If the additional rifle calibers are allowed in the future, do not use this as a vehicle to add a new type of license in an attempt to bring in more revenue. The current firearm deer license will suffice. Tree stands and ground blinds are often placed on state land on the first weekend of September due to hunters having time off from work due to the Labor Day weekend. Please keep the current date of Sept 1st unchanged for state land. I like the privacy identification numbers on stands and blinds proposal. The online and over the phone deer check in procedure may save a lot of money, but it may allow for too many deer to be taken and never checked in. I also have always kept a collection of my metal tags. Please continue to use the current metal tags. I believe that the state could also bring in more money in the future by cutting the cost of a deer tag to 20 dollars since more people may participate in the sport.

Blue tongue has been hurting deer populations in the northern counties since 2012. Please acknowledge this crisis even though getting the word out may hurt local economies. When conditions return to normal, then we can consider expanding deer hunting opportunities.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 2:34:44 AM

Commenter Name Sarah Brichford

City Russiaville **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sbrichford@yahoo.com

Comments I am a hunter who is opposed to higher powered ammunition for rifles used in deer hunting in Indiana. My opposition is primarily due to safety concerns in that most of our hunting spaces are bordered by homes, farm buildings, livestock, and people enjoying the outdoors. I think that high powered ammunition in rifles will encourage some hunters to take bad shots with greater risk of injury to the animal and to activities/structures beyond the target. I think high powered ammunition in rifles may also encourage some to shoot from public spaces onto private property just because they have the "fire power" to make the shot. Please do not change the language of "312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting" to allow for lower caliber but higher powered rifle ammunition.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 9:04:14 AM

Commenter Name Joseph Craig

City mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address jpc101@comcast.net

Comments If conservation was in your true nature to protect our deer and wildlife this rildianlaw would not even be considered! I have hunted all deer season to kill a buck and haven't had one chance I have only seen maybe 10 deer at max all season from October through December ! If conservation Really matters to you I think the best thing to do is reduce our already too long gun season that absolutely devastates are deer population! Look at Illinois, and Ohio They have a very limited gun season and have a booming population! But here in Indiana our DNR and other official s want to wipe out our deer herd. Let's not consider our future generations! I say a big NO to your proposed Plan to bring in rifles to the Indiana gun season!

Comment Received 12/23/2014 10:49:19 AM

Commenter Name John Criswell

City Flat Rock **County** SHELBY **State** IN

E-Mail Address johnnumber@yahoo.com

Comments I am in favor of passing this rule in particular passing 312 IAC 9-3-3. Much of Indiana is open country where a rifle would be appropriate to use.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 11:24:46 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Swafford

City Lebanon **County** BOONE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jeffswafford1967@yahoo.com

Comments The rule proposal to add addition rifle choices is a good one. Keep up the progress IN!!

Comment Received 12/23/2014 12:09:36 PM

Commenter Name Mike O'Haver

City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mojo_mike2@yahoo.com

Comments I am for the proposed gun change for whitetail deer. We are allowed to take coyote with them so why not deer. Please pass and keep up the good work!

Comment Received 12/23/2014 12:37:04 PM

Commenter Name lee johnson

City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** indiana

E-Mail Address lee@jage.com

Comments rifles should be limited by muzzle velocity, not semi-automatic. I am an avid deer hunter, and do not want to be in woods with ak-47's or other "black" rifles. normal range rifles of 200 to 300yds capability make some sense. 300 magnums

do not. do not really think rifles more powerful than 30-30 and 45-70 are either necessary or safe. and there is no place for military semi-autos in fair chase hunting or on public lands.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 2:51:19 PM

Commenter Name Bill Rosenbarger

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address billrose3@att.net

Comments I would like to see high powered rifles for deer hunting. Most all firearm accidents while hunting involve improper handling of firearm at close range with a gun that was supposed to be unloaded ect.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 2:54:52 PM

Commenter Name Kurt A. Maddock MD

City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address maddock@cinergymetro.net

Comments DNRs plan to allow high powered rifles for indiana deer hunting is incredibly dangerous. Innocent bystanders will be put at risk. Why do we need any more ways to kill deer than we currently have? In fact, who would have proposed such an amendment and what might be their ulterior motives...selling more rifles? Please do not put the people of Indiana at greater risk for gunshot wounds, whether they are hunters or not.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 3:59:20 PM

Commenter Name Mike Grandstaff

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kgrandstaff@comcast.net

Comments I strongly oppose the proposed high powered rifle usage rule. As a hunter with 40+ years of hunting experience, I have seen 1st hand the disregard for deer and human safety displayed by this younger generation of "supposed" hunters. Far to many animals are lost already from the current longer range allowed. LET'S NOT LOSE ANY MORE HUMANS OR ANIMALS TO IRRESPONSIBLE LEGISLATION.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 5:00:24 PM

Commenter Name Mark Martin

City Monticello **County** WHITE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jeeps80@yahoo.com

Comments Allowing the use of High Power Rifles is not only dangerous but is encouraging inexperienced people to take dangerous and UN-ethical shots at deer. The argument of Muzzle Loaders that shoot 500 yards shows that the proposal is not in-tune with the average hunter as the few guns that can safely shoot smokeless powder are over 1000 dollars. More than the "average Joe" can afford. The idea of having someone hunting on the next property with a 303 Enfield. SKS or Mosin Nagant they bought for 75.00 and it shoots 3 miles after going through a 120 pound doe should scare every local town board silly. Anybody can walk into Walmart and buy a box of 30-06 180 grain bullets. They maybe good for a big mule deer, an elk or even a moose. but have no place in Indiana with our urban setting and the chance of a bullet traveling miles out of control. Hunters that possess guns capable of taking longer shots such as smokeless powder ML's or 358 Hoosier have spent time and money to get their equipment as well as themselves to be capable of longer shots Only when safe and with the confidence in their guns that and ethical shot can be made to take their game humanly and with the idea of recovering it. Allowing what I'll describe as "slob's" Who only pick up Grand-Pa's war relic or worse The guys with "black" rifles and 30 round clips to enter the woods and fields of our Great state to Blast away is going to give the real Hunters and outdoors-man of Indiana a black eye

Comment Received 12/23/2014 5:06:02 PM

Commenter Name Michael Tice

City South Bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** IN

E-Mail Address xpdtr@netzero.net

Comments I agree with the proposed changes

Comment Received 12/23/2014 5:20:14 PM

Commenter Name Greg Spurgeon

City Atherton **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address xx78@msn.com

Comments I oppose the rule change to allow longer-range rifle cartridges for deer hunting. A few reasons are as follows.

There are many active "anti" groups who don't believe in hunting and are well-organized in their pursuit to stop it. They'll pull any trick to nibble away at our ability to manage game by hunting. One of those tricks in other states has been to implement hunting rules like "must be at least XXX yards from any dwelling". We're lucky so far in that such a rule has not been successfully imposed on us here in Indiana to limit the distance from highways or houses that we can hunt. In other states where this rule passed the result was the closure of large amounts of private property to hunting. My concern is that the more steps we take with allowing longer and longer range weapons here in Indiana, the easier it will be for the antis to nibble at our rights, with rules like "at least 500 yards from any dwelling" and etc. This could close hundreds of square miles of land to hunting and infringe on private property rights.

Do we wish to expand the allowable weapons for no other reason than because somebody thinks "it would be cool" to hunt

with a 30-'06? That is not a valid reason. Common sense dictates that a large increase in the number of deer hunters afield carrying weapons of much longer range capability will increase the occurrence of poor shot choices which will travel towards houses, schools, roads and other high-risk locations. Even if this only increases the number of errant bullets by a mere 1%, that's too much in my book. One additional tragedy is one tragedy too many. A portion of our hunters will of course possess the responsibility and wisdom to turn down the risky shot opportunity on a big buck that appears suddenly sky-lined on a ridge top. But there are a significant number of individuals who will see this as their last chance to shoot even though they can't see where their bullet will come down....far, far away.

If there's a true biological need for this change in our state, I'm not aware of it. Are we failing to kill enough deer with the season structures and weapons choices we have now? Otherwise, for what possible reason do we wish to take the risk of allowing these longer-range weapons, even if the risk is only slight?

Comment Received 12/23/2014 6:15:25 PM

Commenter Name Steven L. Griffith

City Lebanon County **BOONE State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sggriff@gmail.com

Comments I see no proposed rule listed that I disagree with. Glad to see the changes on the firearm amunition for deer. Wasn't sure about daily bag limits of bluegill but after more thought and observing what seems less numbers of bluegill I tend to agree.

Comment Received 12/23/2014 6:54:50 PM

Commenter Name Nathan Yazel

City Rushville County **RUSH State** Indiana

E-Mail Address nyazel@msn.com

Comments I do not agree with allowing the use of more centerfire rifles. Most Indiana hunting ground is made up of relatively small parcels. Allowing more powerful long range rifles is going to create some significant safety issues. I have had issues on our own property with the firearms that are allowed now. Bullets whizzing through our property past us. More range and higher magazine capacities are going to make the issues even more significant. Illinois, Ohio and the lower peninsula of Michigan have seen fit to keep their firearms season as shotgun only. Indiana needs to keep ours shotgun only too. This part of the rule change needs to be eliminated.

Nathan Yazel

Comment Received 12/23/2014 8:55:16 PM

Commenter Name EDWARD HOPF

City JASPER County **DUBOIS State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address EHOPF@ATT.NET

Comments I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE USE OF HIGH POWER RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING. I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF HIGH POWER RIFLES. I CURRENTLY USE A 358 GRANT. I AM A HIGHLY TRAINED SHOOTER. THIS YEAR I TOOK DEER FROM 300 TO 783 YARDS WITH MY RIFLE. I ALWAYS HAVE A SAFE BACKSTOP AND KNOW WHATS BEHIND MY TARGET. PEOPLE THINK THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GET SHOT. I AM NOT GOING TO SUGAR COAT ANYTHING. YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ATTACKED BY A CRIMINAL ON THE STREETS THAN GET HIT BY A RIFLE BULLET. LOOK AT THE STATISTICS FROM OTHER STATES WHO ADOPTED RIFLES. VERY SAFE. I SHOOT EVERYTHING ELSE WITH A HIGH POWERED RIFLE. COYOTE, GROUND HOG, CROWS, AND EVERY OTHER PEST. WE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE WHATEVER WE WANT. WE MADE THAT 1.8" RULE WITH 35 CALIBER OR LARGER. WE OPENED UP A CAN OF WORMS WITH THE 358 HOOSIER AND 358 GRANT. LONG RANGE PRECISION IN THE RIGHT HANDS. MOST PEOPLE DO NOT SHOOT LONG RANGE. MOST PEOPLE HUNT OUT OF A DEER STAND SO THE BULLETS WILL BE GOING INTO THE GROUND. PLEASE REMEMBER THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY WHEN HUNTING. ALSO I SHOOT DEER WITH A XP 100 HANDGUN IN 300 WINCHESTER SHORT MAGNUM. THIS WAS MY FIRST YEAR WITH IT. I SHOT MY BUCK AT 417 YARDS WITH IT. I AM A HIGHLY TRAINED SHOOTER THAT PRACTICES WITH MY GUN AND SAFETY IS ALWAYS PRIORITY # 1. PLEASE ADOPT THE HIGH POWER RIFLE RULING. THANKYOU AND SAFE HUNTING!

Comment Received 12/23/2014 11:16:37 PM

Commenter Name Michael Davis

City Indianapolis County **MARION State** IN

E-Mail Address davis_me@comcast.net

Comments I would like to express my opinion that rule 312IAC 9-3-3 (d) (4) NOT be changed to include .243 or larger. I feel that there are plenty of "tools" or options of weapons available for hunters to use.

Comment Received 12/24/2014 9:20:15 AM

Commenter Name Matt Compton

City columbus County **BARTHOLOMEW State** Indiana

E-Mail Address matt.compton@tmhu.com

Comments I do not agree with the rule proposing the addition of high power rifle to the deer gun season. I believe our deer population can be managed with the current tools in place.

Comment Received 12/24/2014 11:53:56 AM

Commenter Name GORDON WOOD

City LYNNVILLE **County** WARRICK **State** IN

Organization (optional) none

E-Mail Address GWOODICO@AOL.COM

Comments HIGH POWERED RIFLE SEASON-- I feel that there is no good reason to have a rifle season. IF everyone was a good responsible hunter it would not be a problem. But being a avid hunter who hunts at least five times a week, I hear way to many 4 to 5 shots in a row from a slug gun as that so called hunter is shooting at a deer running. That slug is going to travel approximately 4000 to 5000 ft which is just under a mile. But you give the same so called hunter a 30-30 rifle and those 4 to 5 bullets are going to travel 2.5 miles.. Or a 30.06 and they will travel 3.5 to 4.5 miles. As flat and populated as Indiana is we do not need the rifles for these safety reasons. Your excuses of a muzzleloader can shoot almost like a rifle!! Maybe, but that muzzleloader shoots ONCE, then it shoots ONCE again in app. five minutes. It is not slinging bullets all over the place. Yes the predator hunter can use rifles and the farmers with depredation zones can use rifles in the summer. But there is very few of them out there at one time. Sam Whiteleather, the property manager at Sugar Ridge F W Area 5 advised me that there was 80 some deer hunters hunting the property on opening weekend of deer season. I would not want to hunt that property if they all had a high powered rifle in their hands!!! I also would not want to hunt that property if there was 80 some predator hunters out there with a rifle!!! But that will not happen, because there is not that many predator hunters. I have talked to a ton of hunters and farmers on the proposed rifle season. Not one farmer wants it!! Also 8 out of 10 hunters also do not want it. Only 1 C. O. thought that it would not be a problem, all the rest do NOT want it!!!

Thank You for your time! A concerned outdoorsman, Gordon Wood

Comment Received 12/24/2014 1:07:10 PM

Commenter Name James smith

City corydon **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Milkman003@gmail.com

Comments No rifles for deer hunting. Shorten firearms seasons. One buck and one doe only. This has been the worst deer season ever for deer hunting. How can you expect are youth to be interested in deer hunting when you dont see deer.

Comment Received 12/24/2014 1:15:55 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Burch

City Fort wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address j.burch509@comcast.net

Comments Please do not consider the use of high powered rifles during deer season. I have had far too many instances where "hunter" using pump or semi auto shotguns have unloaded at deer running across fields towards my stand site. I shudder to think what would happen if one of these "hunter" should have an AR style weapon in their hands. Shotguns at least have a limited range and muzzleloaders are not rapid fire (eliminating the same-as high powered argument). Please remove the use of high powered weapons for the current proposal.

Comment Received 12/24/2014 2:07:02 PM

Commenter Name Gary Magoni

City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address garymagoni@gmail.com

Comments I just got done reading a front page article in the Indianapolis Star titled "Rifle Rift Fires Up Hunters".

In short, I totally disagree with using high powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana or any other state that has flat terrain. The article mentioned that modern shotguns, muzzle loaders or pistol cartridges, currently permitted to hunt deer, can shoot just as far as high powered cartridges such as the .243 .308 or 30.06.

I have been shooting guns and hunting all my life. The affective range of even the newest shotguns and muzzle loaders are at best 200 to 250 yards. The shotguns and muzzle loaders also drop very quickly and have nowhere near the carrying distances of high powered rifles. The very real danger from high powered rounds, like the .243, .308 or 30.06, is that they will carry for several miles over flat terrain. A shot gun, muzzle loader or pistol round has nowhere near the same carrying distance, and that is where a high powered rifles are of real danger on flat land.

Another argument for high powered rifles is that shotguns have too heavy of a recoil. I agree that a 12 ga deer round has a heavy recoil, but anyone that has ever shot a 30.06, .308 or any of the bigger high powered rounds will tell you that they also have heavy recoils. Anyone shy of a 12 ga recoil can use a rifle chambered for the .44 mag or 357 mag. They have much less recoil and gun weight for the laddies or kids to handle.

When I retired I bought myself 155 acres in Green County because I felt many of the public hunting areas in Indiana were too crowded and unsafe. High powered rifles would greatly enhance the chance of hunters getting shot by a stray bullet.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS SAFETY AND HIGH POWERED RIFLES ARE MUCH MORE UNSAFE ON FLAT TERRAIN WHERE THERE ARE MANY RURAL FAMILIES AND FARMS!!!!

Comment Received 12/24/2014 6:20:41 PM

Commenter Name Keith Crowl

City Hamilton **County** DEKALB **State** IN

E-Mail Address Longlanefarms@aol.com

Comments I support 312 IAC 9-3-3 as an effective and safe means of harvesting deer in Indiana. We have used rifles under Nuisance Wild Animal Control Permits to reduce intensive crop damage by deer. These weapons are more humane

and effective in my opinion, causing a quick clean kill. The energy of these loads and the ability to more accurately place the bullet with a rifle compared to currently used shotguns and handguns both contribute to less lost game. Used conscientiously like any other firearm, they are also safe as verified in other states allowing their use.

Comment Received 12/25/2014 6:19:48 PM

Commenter Name John Nonemaker

City Plymouth County MARSHALL State Indiana

E-Mail Address johnjudy30@gmail.com

Comments High powered rifles should not be allowed for deer hunting in Indiana. While safety is a definite concern, the bigger concern is the further reduction of the deer herd. Hunters have many opportunities to harvest deer with shotguns and rifles using pistol cartridges using basic hunting skills. High powered rifles will increase poaching and "road hunting" as people drive down country roads and see deer in the distance. Slugs and pistol cartridges have limited range where rifles will allow unethical shooters to poach animals from great distances. Those same shooters would be apprehended now for having an illegal weapon, not so if this rule is adopted. Wake up hunters, we're hunting ourselves out of game. First increased bag limits for bonus permits, then rifles with pistol cartridges, then crossbows, then youth hunts, then extended antlerless season after Christmas. Say no to rifle hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 12/25/2014 7:45:03 PM

Commenter Name Rob Keeney

City FLORA County CARROLL State Indiana

E-Mail Address robkeeney@gmail.com

Comments I am a deer hunter. I would like to use a real hunting rifle instead of being crippled by the current restrictions. You will hear many objections to lifting the restrictions, all based on fallacies, myths, and anti-gun or anti-hunting sentiment. Please discount those. The conditions that originated the current restrictions no longer prevail. Please remove them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Comment Received 12/26/2014 9:06:32 AM

Commenter Name James hicks

City Wawaka County NOBLE State In

E-Mail Address Jhicks761@gmail.com

Comments I strongly disagree with the proposed use of high powered rifles in Indiana.

In my area we have a lot of Amish people that hunt in dangerous fashions such as driveing or not wearing orange. Amish religion stops their education at the 8th grade, it is their right and I do not fault them for it but with the ability to hunt their own land and no requirement for hunter education.h I have seen and heard of several near miss Which if Indiana adds the longer range weapons the near miss has a probability to be injury/deaths!

Comment Received 12/26/2014 9:36:57 AM

Commenter Name Chad Ryan

City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana

E-Mail Address Cmrphotos@gmail.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3

Sec. 3 (d) (4)

This section changes the legal rifle cartridges to allow for any bullet larger than .243 in diameter and takes away the maximum case length. This therefore allows the use of essentially any high- power rifle cartridge, including those used for long range shooting. As an Indiana hunter of more than 20 years and lifetime comprehensive hunting license holder, I vehemently oppose this rule change on the basis of safety.

In the past, it was my belief that high powered rifles were not allowed in Indiana due to a calculation of the population of people per square mile. Bullets in the 30-caliber range such as the .30-06, .308, 300 WM and many others have the capability to travel for more than a mile, carrying enough energy to kill. This puts far too many people at risk, including other hunters and even people simply sitting inside their homes.

While it is true that hunters must be safe and responsible and that the majority must have passed an authorized Hunter Safety course, it is also true that there are a good number of hunters who don't always practice the rules of safety. With high powered rifles in their hands, the potential for harm is magnified significantly. The allure to the large caliber rifle is the ability to take long range shots of 300, 400, 500 yards and more. In most places in Indiana someone's house is 500 yards away from a given plot of woods. Further, the available places to practice shooting at ranges over 100 yards is severely limited. The maximum range at almost every single Indiana DNR shooting range and most privately-owned ranges is 100 yards. Simply sighting in a rifle at 100 yards then using ballistics calculators for shots of 300 yards or more is no safe substitute for actual practice at ranges of which the rifle is capable of shooting.

Lastly, I believe children are the future of our hunting heritage in Indiana. I have taken and continue to take my sons hunting with me. But if this rule is changed, and the rifle calibers are expanded, I will have to strongly reconsider putting my sons in

harms way. According to the way the proposed rule is written, it would become legal to hunt with anything up to and including a .50 BMG. I just will not have my children out in woods and fields where anyone carrying a 300 Winchester Magnum feels appropriate trying to take a shot at a deer a half mile away just to see if he can do it.

I believe the rifle cartridges currently allowed are sufficient, though I think the proposed rule change could be written to include the .243 and .30-30 cartridges specifically and no others. This rule change would give hunters the ability of taking very long shots, despite their inability to safely practice at such ranges, and I, as well as many hunters I know, ask that you discard this ill-advised rule change.

Respectfully,
Chad Ryan
1022 River Oak Run
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
(260)403-1955

Comment Received 12/26/2014 10:17:43 AM

Commenter Name Titus Schleyer
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address schleyer@regenstrief.org
Comments Hi,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes contained in the Fish and Wildlife: Biennial Rule Amendment Package (LSA #14-453). I would like to comment on the following revision in 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting:

- (4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:
(A) Fire a bullet of two hundred fortythree thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.
(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

I think these proposed revisions make a lot of sense and should be implemented. I have been a hunter for many years in Germany and this rule follows the regulations there closely. For deer comparable to American whitetails, the required rifle cartridge in Germany must have a kinetic energy of 2,000 Joule at 100 m and a minimum caliber of 6.5 mm. (see § 19 Absatz 1 Satz 2b BjagdG – federal hunting regulations in Germany). These regulations are very similar to what you are using and have been in place in Germany for as long as I can remember.

Thank you for your efforts to continually evolve hunting regulations in Indiana.

Titus Schleyer, DMD, PhD
Indianapolis
Schleyer@regenstrief.org

Comment Received 12/26/2014 1:06:37 PM

Commenter Name Reggie Isley
City Flat Rock **County** SHELBY **State** In
E-Mail Address reggieisley@me.com
Comments I have hunted since I was 8 years old, gun-bow-and hand gun. I'm also a farmer and land owner. The proposed rule to allow rifles for deer hunting cannot be a good idea for this state. We allow friends and family to deer hunt but that could end with this change to the rules. I hope for the good and safety for all that this rule is not allowed to be implemented.
Thank You
Reggie Isley

Comment Received 12/26/2014 5:04:39 PM

Commenter Name Mike Myers
City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** In.
Organization (optional) n/a
E-Mail Address mmyer2@me.com
Comments To whom might care I would like to voice my concerns about centerfires. there is no place in the indiana woods for these and are not needed. I,m wondering who is lobbying for such. How can something considered unsafe since 1951 be safe now what has changed ? Please pardon the term but don,t be STUPID
Comment Received 12/26/2014 7:37:07 PM

Commenter Name Kyle Peterson
City Kokomo **County** MIAMI **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address kap1783@gmail.com
Comments I am 100% against legalizing high power rifles for deer hunting. The safety hazard it would create is unacceptable. Public hunting land is always crowded during firearms season. If we have all of those hunters using rifles with significantly longer range than a shotgun, the risk of an accident goes through the roof. It's not just public land either.

Hunting private land with rifles possess it's own risks too. Most areas of Indiana are fairly well populated. With a rifle, the risk of a stray round hitting a house, vehicle, or any other unintended target is too high. For the most part, we do not have acceptable terrain to deer hunt with rifles in Indiana. Passing this amendment would be irresponsible. Even if this rule would pass, I would refuse to use a rifle due to the safety concerns because I am a responsible hunter. Also, I would quit hunting public land because the chance to harvest a deer is not worth my life.

Comment Received 12/26/2014 11:29:16 PM

Commenter Name Samuel Mills

City Crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cade.mills@gmail.com

Comments This comment is regarding the proposed change in allowing high powered rifles.

My concern is not that of safety, it is that of the ways it can be detrimental to the deer. The last two years myself and other have observed a noticeable decrease in white-tail deer numbers. Allowing rifles will impact this in two ways. One, obviously it will make it easier to kill deer from a greater distance, therefore hunters should be able to kill more deer. The other concern is that hunters will take shots at a great distance. The greater the distance the greater the chance deer will be wounded, either living or dying without being found. I feel more animals will suffer. Both issues will make the deer population quickly decrease.

The comment about muzzleloaders being able to shoot 500 yards is funny to most. We would all like to see anyone who truly believes that (besides Hillary Clinton) to shoot one to 500 yards.

There are a lot of hunters who are beginning to think the DNR is trying to greatly decrease the deer population. This rule change will strengthen those thoughts. I feel for the future of deer hunting and deer, this rule change needs to be disposed of.

Sincerely,

Samuel Cade mills

Comment Received 12/27/2014 3:18:15 PM

Commenter Name Nick koontz

City Churubusco **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Swamplabs@aol.com

Comments The proposed rule change for the use of rifles is a bad idea! You can't compare smokeless muzzle loaders to rifles in your argument because only a couple of companies manufacture them and very few hunters use them per online hunting polls! The deer herd is already in decline and the #'s are down and a few of us are taking polls at work and the popular opinion is move back the gun season and do not pass the rifle changes! We want our children to experience the good hunting opportunities like we have had in the past! Look at Ohio, Illinois, and Iowa there deer herds are better off than ours and they have very limited gun and muzzleloader seasons, our gun seasons are either double the amount of days or very close to that! There herds size in those states has only declined due to EHD! Not over hunting like ours! Please take our comments and opinions in to consideration! Thanks!

Comment Received 12/27/2014 6:00:59 PM

Commenter Name Scott Daugherty

City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address scottdaugherty6917@comcast.net

Comments the rule change to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting is completely wrong. Indiana does not need that type of equipment to hunt deer. this rule change will encourage hunters to take shots at long range which 95% of hunters are not capable doing ! do you a lot of wounded animals or worse a missed shot that hits a house, car or person. the true art of deer hunting is learning the animal and making the best shot (which is usually closer for most people) , not by trying to be a sniper and shooting low percentage shot. bottom line is I don't feel safe hunting with high powered rifles being used in the field. if this rule passes I know you will lose this hunter. thank you

Comment Received 12/27/2014 9:14:03 PM

Commenter Name Bonnie Miller

City Farmland **County** RANDOLPH **State** In.

E-Mail Address bonniemiller@iquest.net

Comments My name is Bonnie Miller and my husband and I live at 8181 W 100 S., Farmland, In. We have lived her for over 40 years. I have extreme concerns over allowing high powered guns to hunt deer. Some reasons are as follows.

1) It only takes one or two irresponsible persons to hurt/kill people or livestock when these guns fire and miss the deer. I know of very few people who are as accurate as needed to kill a deer at the distances these guns can range. In fact I know of people who shoot at what they call a "sound shot". They hear something and shoot at it. These guns would be even more detrimental in their hands. There are a lot of responsible hunters but there are also a lot that are not. So why give the non-responsible people even more ability to do damage.

2) In the years we have lived here it is not safe to even go in my own woods (we own 100 acres) during most of deer season. I have been in my back fields and have had bullets zing near enough to me to shake me considerably. More than I can count this has happened. These are the poachers of which neither the police department nor conservation office can help as I can't prove who they are quick enough. I have no desire to now be at my house and have bullets zinging around me or my horses.

3) I have been standing in my driveway when overzealous coyote hunters have shot over my field into the woods at coyotes running. I am standing there yelling that my husband is in the back field. I know who they are but then again nothing is done. A high powered rifle would stretch my property. These "hunters also took aim at my German Shepherd". Thinking I am sure he was a coyote. Again this was through the scope of what appeared to be a longer distance gun, by the sound it made across our field and into the woods.

4) If you cannot shoot a deer at a reasonable range, I doubt you can kill one that is farther out.

5) And yes I hunt. I checked my deer in at beginning of season.

6) per Indy Star - "proponents say high powered rifles would be just as safe and the bagging limit would prevent dwindling deer population". I disagree with the safeness and don't know what these guns have to do with the population other than to imply more deer would be killed. Again if you can't kill at a closer target, I doubt you will be able to kill at farther distance.

7) I feel that allowing the proposed calibers would allow that one can shoot a mile or so, which is dangerous in rural settings as well as suburban outskirts.

I suspect that the majority of people could be against this proposal but someone with money or power will grease someone's pocket and it will be passed anyway.

This message was sent using IMP, the Internet Messaging Program.

Comment Received 12/27/2014 11:02:44 AM

Commenter Name David Neely

City Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dkneely77@gmail.com

Comments I mainly hunt deer. I like the rules on rifles, but semi - auto hi-power rifles probably should be restricted, at least on state lands where hunters are numerous. I will also be more likely to hunt turkey now that I can combine it with deer season. My schedule doesn't allow me to hunt very often. Thank you for allowing my comments. David

Comment Received 12/28/2014 8:59:47 AM

Commenter Name Thomas E Walma

City LaPorte **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address walmart@comcast.net

Comments I agree with proposed rule changes which will allow the use of rifles with a .243 caliber or greater, for hunting deer. I also agree with the proposed change allowing the use of firearms in deer reduction zones, after the first Saturday in November through January 31.

Comment Received 12/28/2014 10:47:52 AM

Commenter Name Kenneth Cox

City Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** IN

E-Mail Address judy_r_cox@twc.com

Comments i think they should pass this law for using high powered rifles for deer hunting as long as information is given to every person about how to shoot so every person is responsible for their shots for examples shot should go through animal into the ground not over a hill..

Comment Received 12/28/2014 12:34:20 PM

Commenter Name Mark Thompson

City Plainfield **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address BigMarkST1@att.net

Comments Vote NO to allowing of rifles during firearms seasons. Indiana is too populated and has very limited OPEN hunting areas. Rifles have much longer ranges for bullet travel than shotgun slugs and muzzleloaders. More research and expert comments needed. As an avid muzzle loader hunter, the comment about accurate 500 yard muzzleloaders is simply NOT true when commenting about general public. Long range muzzleloading shooting is limited to 250-300 yards with only the best made and costly muzzleloader guns, bullets, powder, and primers. From field experience the general public will buy cheaper guns, cheapest bullets, powder, primers at Wally World day before season and will try to shoot 500 yards because the DNR says it can be done. Not to mention there are only one or two muzzleloaders made today that can shoot smokeless powder and they have limited availability. Indiana has limited open hunting grounds for the public. I have personally seen 6 hunters all within site of each other, sitting facing each other over a 5 acre cornfield, all on about 6-8 acres of ground at

Ravina Woods near Paragon Indiana. I have traveled to several state forest areas to hunt and didn't have a place to park, Ravina, Morgan Monroe, Owen Puntnam for example. Slug ballistics and muzzleloading ballistics will prove that they have very limited trajectory when compared to rifles. Many articles are written about Maximum Point Black Range (MPBR) of a firearm when considering a six inch rise and drop of a bullet/slug. The best MPBR that can be asked of a slug or muzzleloader is a maximum of 150 -185 yards. The MPBR for a .243 caliber and for a .270 caliber for example are almost 300 yards. You need simpler laws about firearms, and hunting instead of making them so extensive. Not to mention you don't have the man power to enforce the laws we have. You need to save money on meetings and paper and hire some wardens.

Comment Received 12/28/2014 3:43:52 PM

Commenter Name Dan Owczarzak

City Highland **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dano1004134@att.net

Comments Both sexes of pheasant should be allowed to be harvested during the first 2 days of the paid release clean-up hunt. The amount of wild hens killed during the clean-up period is trivial at best.

Comment Received 12/28/2014 4:03:06 PM

Commenter Name Robert K Kendall

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jbm1100@hotmail.com

Comments I am against the current rule change that is being considered which would allow for high powered rifles to be used during firearm season. Within the current rule, we have several fire arm options which would accomodate any hunter. I believe Indiana is too flat of an area for this type of weapon usage. Also my nephews are wanting to learn deer hunting but with this rule change, I worry about taking them out. This rule change means DANGER, DANGER, DANGER!

Comment Received 12/28/2014 6:14:30 PM

Commenter Name lizz strontz

City south bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** indiana

E-Mail Address lizzstrontz@att.net

Comments the 52 acres I am Caretaker of, has No-Hunting Signs posted, but I Fear for my life on my Walks there'. Last Fall, a HighPower Rifle Bullet travelled the length of a Football field over the tall Corn, and dropped at our Backdoor, a Peaceful hangout normally. The Shooter was given a warning....AND REALLY, who is going to protect our lives when a Shooter could be far gone by the time before one would even know what just happened. Hunters already have too many liberties with gun use..

Comment Received 12/28/2014 8:23:01 PM

Commenter Name Robert S. Rehmel

City Liberty **County** UNION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address travelern601@aol.com

Comments I am opposed to the use of high powered rifles for the taking of deer. If anything the law needs to be changed to read that ONLY straight sided cases should be used. Because of the current description we now have the .358 Hoosier, which is a HIGH POWERED round. The population density of most of the state will mean there will be a higher chance of accidental shootings and rounds going far further down range with lethal energy.

Comment Received 12/29/2014 8:28:32 AM

Commenter Name Karl Miller

City nappanee **County** ELKHART **State** indiana

E-Mail Address karlejoannmiller@aim.com

Comments On the potential rifle rule, we need to keep it the way it is! The 1.8" case length in 35 caliber is a very safe rifle. If they turn this loose we will have to many ultra's and magnum guns too close to peoples homes. If we could stay with a specific gun only go to a 30-30, no more. I have been hunting for 55 years and know safety. Predator hunters are a different group that know safe hunting ranges. Deer hunters need to stay with a controlled gun for the close areas with homes. Slug guns and 35 diameter bullets keeps this in a safe range.

Comment Received 12/29/2014 9:28:51 AM

Commenter Name TERRY L WALKER

City PERU **County** MIAMI **State** IN

Organization (optional) Mr.

E-Mail Address solarram99@isp.com

Comments As a long time deer hunter and landowner I am very concerned about the use of rifles per the new proposal 312 IAC 9-3-3. If the hunters were on large farms it might not be an issue but I have numerous hunters hunting on the sections surrounding my property and the proximity to my home is bad enough with shotguns and muzzle loaders. Multiple round larger caliber rifles without restriction is of great concern. Lets face it....be realistic....there are too many jerks shooting up the woods on opening day and putting rifles in their hands is frightening. I will be contacting my state rep on this one. Who talked you guys into this?

Comment Received 12/29/2014 6:32:02 PM

Commenter Name Ronald J. Ehinger

City Monroeville **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rje@barrettlaw.com

Comments My wife and I own approximately 100 acres in Allen County, Indiana. Approximately 44 acres of that ground was enrolled in the CRP program in 1984 and another 30 acres was enrolled about 5 years ago. All of the CRP land has been planted to trees.

We have no objection to hunting in general, but do not allow hunting on our property. The trees are being grown for eventual harvesting and our hope is to be able to harvest a few very nice veneer trees out of our wooded acreage. Our concern is that bullets from rifles are likely to travel some distance and may very well end up in embedded in one of our trees. Less likely, but still possible is a bullet striking our house or even one of us.

Allen County has numerous hunters, but not many places to hunt. Deer season is always very trying for us in that we need to constantly monitor our property to keep uninvited hunters off our property. With the proposed changes, walking through our woods during hunting season will definitely be a thing of the past.

We will always have irresponsible hunters and the rules do not likely matter to them. However, with the new rules allowing rifles, we are very concerned that novice and other uninformed hunters will inadvertently destroy the value of our trees and be a danger to us and other hunters.

Rifles are not an appropriate weapon for hunting in a state as populous as Indiana, especially in the more urban counties such as Allen County. We respectfully request that the change allowing rifles be rejected, that high powered muzzle loaders be regulated and that we be allowed to safely enjoy our property and raise our veneer trees.

Comment Received 12/30/2014 11:07:41 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Gardner

City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** IN

E-Mail Address thomas.gardner@navy.mil

Comments Support allowing the taking of whitetail deer during the November firearms season only with a rifle .243 caliber or larger

Comment Received 12/30/2014 11:20:15 AM

Commenter Name Stuart Breslin

City Danville **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Sdbreslin@Indy.rr.com

Comments Regarding 312 IAC 9-3-3 governing the expanded use of high powered rifles. I am a deer hunter in Indiana using a shotgun and have hunted deer and antelope in Montana using my high powered rifles. While I support the use of guns and do not believe the expanded use of rifles in Indiana is a good idea. On opening day, I could see my neighbors sitting in the woods 50 yards from my house and had other hunters in a blind another 50 yards from my blind. I was unaware of my neighbors blind until he fired his gun. I could hear shots across the road as well. Given my experience, I can imagine only one very limited safe direction to discharge a rifle across my field. There are houses to the East and horses and cows to the West. Without this experience, I fear the teenagers shooting near me will create accidents. In short, given the current population density just outside the urban zone, I think we are asking for more accidents and more ammunition to the press when accident occur.

Comment Received 12/30/2014 6:19:16 PM

Commenter Name Scott Pollard

City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address scott.pollard@hotmail.com

Comments I personally don't understand why we are trying to let high power rifles for deer hunting. This makes no sense for a number of reasons which I will list. First and for most SAFETY. Muzzleloaders do shoot further than ever but 500 yards is inaccurate and if so, once it reaches that distance, energy is low; also it is only a single shot. Now compare that to a 300 win mag or more popular 300 magnum 6 or 270, how about a 308 in a AR platform at a deer running across a field! The fact about using rifles for coyotes is comparing apples to oranges. I personally don't know anyone doing a coyote drive [deer drive]. You typically call the coyote to a call or bait in a safe direction. It has never been safe to use high power rifles in the past why is it ok now? Population has increased, and more roads, and more hunters. I am a owner of many guns including high power rifles but I don't think this is a good idea. If you can not take a deer with the laws now, it's not because of your gun you should tune you hunting skills.

Comment Received 12/30/2014 9:08:28 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Cannaday

City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana, US

E-Mail Address jacannaday@frontier.com

Comments I think the rule change allowing rifles to be used for deer hunting makes sense. Current rule basically pigeon holes us into spending big dollars on custom wildcat cartridges that are made to specifically meet the Indiana rules or to use less than effective pistol type cartridges in rifles. Studies have shown elsewhere that no significant decreases in safety have resulted from the adoption of rifle use in deer seasons. I would be for having to wear more orange if this law is adopted to offset the general safety concern hunters have about this rule change. Personally, I'll probably wear more myself if this gets

passed until I feel more comfortable with my neighboring hunters. I also like the idea of allowing firearms to be used in the deer reduction zones as currently reducing deer in these zones in the late season gets pretty tough with a bow. In the absence of some food source deer this time of year get tough to pattern so having the increased range potential will help with these reductions I think. Of course, you'll have people shooting deer outside of these zones with guns and claiming they were in but you can't make the laws to deal with that and have them be effective at all I suppose.

Comment Received 12/30/2014 9:24:46 PM

Commenter Name Norman Power
City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana
E-Mail Address NormanPower01@comcast.net
Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3:

My comments on this rule change

1. The argument that "muzzle loaders will travel 500yds + is a stretch at best". Another thing is most all people that shoot muzzle loaders usually look beyond their intended target as they only have one shot.
2. You allow "Hi Powered Rifles" there are people that are going to have, SKS, AK 47's AR's that shoot 308's and 338 Lapua rounds (the 338 is capable of traveling over 2700yards) and killing and you will have some that will hunt with the 50BMG because they can.
3. I really do not want to hear how some kid or family member at the dinner table in downtown Indiana was killed by some idiot that had 'Buck Fever' chasing a deer across the field with rifle rounds shot through a house. Believe me I have had idiots do it with semi auto shotguns! As of now the only guns chambered with the pistol rounds are single shot or bolt action which makes most look beyond their intended target .

That is all I have to say I will quit hunting as I do not want shot by some of the morons out there that will have semi auto guns chambered in the rifle rounds with the "Spray And Pray Mentality"

1. You also might ask the lane owners about this rule as you may find most are against this.
2. Hunters will louse as land owners will not allow anyone to hunt their property with the new rifle rule because of poetical law suits from neighbors.

Comment Received 12/30/2014 10:57:00 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Wheatley
City Milltown County CRAWFORD State Indiana
E-Mail Address kevincpa@twc.com

Comments I am against the use of rifles for deer hunting.....I think this is a safety issue and not good for the overall managment of the quality of the deer herd.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:20:38 AM

Commenter Name Oakley Barger
City Austin County SCOTT State In
E-Mail Address Oakley@imperialmarbleinc.com

Comments I agree with allowing rifles for deer hunting during gun season. I see no safety issues with responsible hunters. Safety issues come from irresponsible hunters with any weapon.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:36:06 AM

Commenter Name Oakley Barger
City Austin County SCOTT State In
E-Mail Address Oakley@imperialmarbleinc.com

Comments I agree with allowing rifles for deer hunting during gun season. I see no safety issues with responsible hunters. Safety issues come from irresponsible hunters with any weapon.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:36:38 AM

Commenter Name Michael Hauser
City Tell City County PERRY State IN
E-Mail Address mikehauser@psci.net

Comments The DNR is absolutely correct in the proposal to allow rifles over .243
 As clealy stated in their reasons; there are no longer any logical argurments against it; modern rifles are the most effective & humane tool for deer harvesting and it long overdo to make them legal in IN

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:38:48 AM

Commenter Name Paul A. Best
City Floyds Knobs County FLOYD State Indiana
E-Mail Address paul.best@peoples.com

Comments I am a farm owner and hunter. I am writing to indicate my full support for the rule change relating to allowing rifles of .243 or large for hunting deer.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:49:28 AM

Commenter Name Tim Huelsenbeck
City Avilla County NOBLE State Indiana
E-Mail Address huelsenbeckt@cih-fw.com

Comments I strongly disagree with the High Power rifle ruling amendment as found in 312 IAC 9-3-3. I feel that the range of these firearms is a safety factor for hunters and non hunting public that should be reviewed. As a small parcel land owner I feel that this equipment is not correct for Northern Indiana due to the amount of rural population

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:55:40 AM

Commenter Name rick wright

City union mills **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rickwright7822@gmail.com

Comments I think that the high powered rifle should only be used south of I 70 where the terrain is a lot more rolling and it would make for a much safer environment. 5ltcg

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:56:31 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Dale

City North Manchester **County** WABASH **State** IN

E-Mail Address Jldbowhunter@yahoo.com

Comments "No Rifles" Way to dangerous! Our deer herd cannot handle it! Talk to Illinois and Iowa they actually like deer! I think we need to shorten our firearms like they do or at least take it out of the rut! Remember we don't have the terrain to handle rifles and we are way over populated. We won't have any deer to hunt if it keeps up this way! I already have a lease in Illinois bc our state stinks for QDM! That's less revenue for this state "and we all know that's what it's all about" but w rule changes like this you're forcing our hands! Please "NO RIFLES"!

Comment Received 12/31/2014 10:59:37 AM

Commenter Name Troy Schneider

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** IN

E-Mail Address troy8881@hotmail.com

Comments I do not feel the increase in maximum size of shell casing for high powered rifles is needed. There is no need to shoot deer at over 100 yards much less 400+ yards. Many public hunting grounds are not even a quarter mile wide. The argument for the increase is not substantiated. Safety is my main concern with this rule change. Much of Indiana is flat and these high powered bullets have the range of over 2 miles. This rule change is not needed for Indiana at this time.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:04:34 AM

Commenter Name John Reister

City Liberty **County** UNION **State** Indiana [IN]

E-Mail Address j.w.reister@hotmail.com

Comments As a 67 year old man who has hunted deer every year since returning from VietNam in 1969 I'm opposed to using high powered rifles in Indiana . I think it will result in too many accidents due to yhe range of these weapons .

Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:26:05 AM

Commenter Name Jarrod M Morgan

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address jarrodmorgan98@yahoo.com

Comments I agree with the rifle cartridge change i think we should allow it

Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:26:38 AM

Commenter Name Everett Meadows

City Walton **County** CASS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address EBRCconst@aol.com

Comments Ref 312IAC9-3-3, para d(4) pertaining to bullet sizes for deer hunting. I am against allowing the use of rifles in 243 and above. If this rule is approved it closes the door for me, members of my family and hunting companions on the two farms we currently have permission to hunt. I have spoken to the owner in one case and the leaser in the 2nd property. Both have informed me if the high power rifle rule goes into effect they will no longer allow deer hunting on either property. It will be closed to all hunters. Me along with my family and friends have been given permission to hunt these farms since the mid 1970's. This will end our hunting. One owner tells me he does not want to be in his tractor or combine with someone hunting with high power rifles on his property or property that is adjacent to his. I am positive this is the same concern of many other farmers and land owners. It will stop deer hunting for many other hunters besides me and my family. I have read that many in favor of the new rule have expressed that the recoil from a shotgun with a slug is too high. If that is the case then them may want to use a different gauge for recoil reduction. I have many high power rifles that I current own and shoot that have a much higher recoil than my 12 gauge, I feel the excuse of too high of a recoil is a poor excuse to use in allowing high power rifles. If this new rule goes into effect it will close the doors to many hunters.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:35:27 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Jones

City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jacks46@aol.com

Comments I support the ruling to allow centerfire rifles as outlined in 312 IAC 9-3-3

Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:41:34 AM

Commenter Name william D huffer

City cassopolis **County** CASS **State** MI
Organization (optional) none
E-Mail Address william.huffer@arcelormittal.com
Comments Eliminating the cartridge case length restriction for rifles would essentially allow for "high powered" rifle use. Not a good idea in areas as populated as much of Indiana.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:43:33 AM

Commenter Name Nicholas Yost
City Osceola **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address nyost@trarnold.com
Comments I do not support the amendment of 312 IAC 9-3-3, Sec.3 (d) (4) (a) or (c) to allow the use of .243 or larger center fire rifles for deer hunting in Indiana.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:44:00 AM

Commenter Name Craig Elsner
City Evansville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address cmelsner11@yahoo.com
Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3. The use of centerfire rifles is not needed in Indiana for deer hunting. As an avid deer hunter, I believe it is already easy enough to harvest a deer and a rifle makes it that much easier. What hunting skills does it take to shoot a deer at 300 yards? Lets just call it deer shooting instead of hunting. The popluation density is much higher than in states like Kentucky that allow the use of rifles. Safety is an important issue with these rifles. The bullet of a rifle travels much farther and has a flatter trajectory than those out of a shotgun or muzzleloader. In essence I believe the use of rifles is being pushed by insurance companies and gun manufactures and is not needed in the state of Indiana. I would like to know why this is being pushed and who is behind it because most hunters I know don't want the law passed.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 11:49:36 AM

Commenter Name James Meece
City Plainfield **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address chipmaker@att.net
Comments The deer hunting equipment rule change 312-IAC-9-3-3 that would allow center fire rifles of standard calibers will be a welcome addition to the deer hunting regulations in Indiana. It has been a long time coming, and will give hunters an opportunity to use firearms that are much more consistently accurate and have the terminal ballistics necessary to make one shot kills on deer size game. This would mean that fewer deer would be wounded and lost due to the great increase in accuracy of center fire rifles over shotguns and muzzle loaders. Concerns about how far a center fire rifle will launch a projectile should not be an issue. A typical 30-06 hunting cartridge that is zeroed at 200 yards will strike the ground at 500 yards (48 inch drop) when fired at "0" degrees of elevation. When typical hunting loads are used, those with polymer or soft nose bullets, over penetration is also not an issue as these types of bullets expand on impact and cannot penetrate trees more than a few inches in diameter. In reading the minutes of the Rule Proposal Meeting held in September of 2014, I had to take exception to the comments made by Jack Corpuz. He seems to believe that by amending the equipment rule, the woods will fill up with "Rambo" type hunters that will be spraying bullets at anything that moves from the evil AK 47 charged with 30 round magazines. First, a word about that "evil" firearm. It is notoriously inaccurate. Second, the maximum effective range of the AK is 300 yards. I has ballistics similar to the 30-30 cartridge. Referencing Mr. Corpuz's remark about modern muzzle loaders being accurate to that same distance, the distinction between the two is also a non-issue. Third, no one that is an ethical hunter or for that matter anyone who actually knows anything about this type of firearm would equip it with a "bump-fire" stock to increase it's rate of fire in hopes of taking ANY game animal. Mr. Corpuz's statement saying "If you don't know what a bump fire stock is, look it up on the internet" indicates to me that his knowledge of firearms is limited to what he can find online. Taking that into account, it does not appear as Mr. Corpuz has any real world experience with firearms, or hunters. He is simply parroting the sort of "firearms hysteria" that he reads online and hears in the anti-firearms media. Finally, I believe that the proposed changes to the equipment rule would be a great benefit to those who would like to hunt deer in Indiana, but do not have the time to learn how to use and maintain a muzzle loader, or those who cannot endure the recoil of a shotgun deer slug. A .243, or even a .308 center fire rifle has a mild recoil compared to shotgun slugs. The benefits of increased accuracy, vastly superior terminal ballistics, and the access to low recoil inexpensive ammunition will attract a great many more hunters into the field that previously shied away from deer hunting due to the equipment limitations. I hope the Commission will approve the proposed changes and give little if any regard to Mr. Corpuz's remarks. I find that they are extremist and that the people of the State of Indiana deserve better than that.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 12:04:22 PM

Commenter Name james warren
City Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jimandmjw@aol.com
Comments I am for high power rifles in Indiana...I think it is about time we started using modern equipment to harvest deer...more accurate, more humane, easier for new hunters to use, giving them more options to be comfortable using..
Comment Received 12/31/2014 12:16:03 PM

Commenter Name CW McKittrick
City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** IN
E-Mail Address mckitt19@msn.com

Comments I see no reason, not to make the proposed amendments in this section.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 12:29:13 PM

Commenter Name David A Martin

City Winamac **County** PULASKI **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address davidm@ekova.com

Comments I believe the proposed change in rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 which refers to the use of high powered rifles is going to endanger local residents and hunters alike. The landscape of many Indiana counties does not provide a proper stop for the bullets fired out of these guns. I believe the current legal hunting equipment provides ample opportunity for any person wanting to take a deer and in no way keeps a person from achieving their goal. Please consider the residents in neighboring homes and fields when voting on this proposal. Thank you for your time.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 1:05:03 PM

Commenter Name Bob Hardwick

City Mitchell **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bvhardwick@hughes.net

Comments Agree with all rule changes except.

When referring to a Lifetime License and adding the statement "before its repeal" you should include the date of the repeal. Otherwise the statement can be misconstrued or misleading.

Thanks

Bob Hardwick

Comment Received 12/31/2014 1:10:06 PM

Commenter Name Lyle Hartranft

City Corunna **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address redhawk300@outlook.com

Comments I see no reason why the proposed rule changes should not pass as currently written.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 1:12:23 PM

Commenter Name John Glasson

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

E-Mail Address brad.glasson@ffbt.com

Comments I don't believe that allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting is necessary or wise in Indiana. I believe it is a dangerous proposition.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 1:15:55 PM

Commenter Name KURT BARHYDT

City SOUTH BEND **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address kbarhydt@sbcglobal.net

Comments i'm in favor of this rule proposal.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 1:18:23 PM

Commenter Name Marcos T Rubino

City Thorntown **County** BOONE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mtrubino@hotmail.com

Comments I have made a comment before stating to be in favor of high power rifles to hunt whitetail deer, but neglected to comment on the use of firearms for urban deer hunting: I am against legalizing the use of any firearm for urban hunting, especially high power rifles. These I consider to be safe in a rural environment, but too dangerous in an urban environment, since the bullets have enough energy to go through a wall other than a brick wall.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 1:49:51 PM

Commenter Name Jason Greer

City Middletown **County** HENRY **State** IN

E-Mail Address Jasongreer80@yahoo.com

Comments I disagree with the firearm rule change proposal 312 IAC 9-3-3 section d sub part 4 A - D. This proposal will accelerate the decline of the diminishing populations of our white tailed deer. Disease and coyotes have already diminished our whitetail populations to very low numbers. Every Hunter I speak with agrees that the whitetail population is at a very low level.

Safety is another concern. The use of high-powered rifles combined with Hoosier population and the Indiana landscape is a recipe for disaster.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 2:01:31 PM

Commenter Name Mark Townsend

City West Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address mnc1978@yahoo.com

Comments I am writing to communicate my support for allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting as described in 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, Sec 3, d, 4.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 2:07:08 PM

Commenter Name Steven Winget

City Merrillville **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address swinget97@yahoo.com

Comments I think that the proposed rule change allowing deer hunters in Indiana to use higher powered rifle's is a great idea. There have been many times where I could not a harvest a deer because it was simply out of range. By allowing hunters to use more high powered rifle's more people will go deer hunting then before because more people have centerfire rifle's than muzzleloaders, slug shotguns , bows and crossbows. This new rule will also allow hunter's to harvest more deer and provide meat for their families.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 2:39:06 PM

Commenter Name Jack Roberts

City Winchester **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jroberts7758@yahoo.com

Comments I think allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana is a bad idea in any county, it is much to populated and the bullets carry much to far. We live on property that the White River runs through with woods on both sides of the river, hunters hunt East and West of us I would fear for my children & grandchildren's safety if they were outside during deer season. Furthermore I high powered rifles are not necessary to bag a deer in Indiana, as a hunter I have always filled my tag using a bow or shotgun. I also think the people using HP rifles might not be familiar enough with a HP rifle to use a HP rifle with housing close. Please take my comments as from someone who has hunted in Indiana for 30 years. Natures friend Jack Roberts

Comment Received 12/31/2014 2:42:23 PM

Commenter Name Monita Bowers

City Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** In

E-Mail Address mbowers922@aol.com

Comments I am asking that the laws not be changed concerning guns during deer season. We are a hunting family but do not think the proposed guns would be safe in our populated state. I fear that the deer population has already been adversely affected by the changes alresdy put into place.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 2:51:27 PM

Commenter Name JayIn Summers

City Alexandria **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jayInsummers97@hotmail.com

Comments I think, if this law passes, that killing deer with be more ethical. It will increase yardage which I can shoot. I also have equipment that I can already use. I wouldn't have to buy new equipment. I can also reload my rifle cases to make clean kills.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:17:30 PM

Commenter Name Rick Hand

City Bremen **County** MARSHALL **State** IN

E-Mail Address rhand1944@hotmail.com

Comments I feel it is unsafe to allow the use of rifles in Indiana. There may be parts of the state where that could be a possibility, but do not feel that rifles can be safely used due to the heavy population in our area. There are numerous residences in almost every section. I think hunters already have all the selection of weapons they need to pursue animals in our state without this addition. Thank you.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:17:50 PM

Commenter Name Timothy Neal

City Worthington **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tneal@node1internet.com

Comments I am a avid Deer Hunter and have been for the past 36 years. I sincerely hope that any consideration of including High Power Rifle cartridges will NOT be approved. Maybe 30-30 Win. but that's it! Indiana is way to densely populated and the terrain to flat for High Powered Rifles.

I live in a rural farming area, and my home is surrounded by property that is Deer hunted. In the past we have had a couple close calls with Hunters shooting toward our home. I hate to think what might have happened if High Powered Rifles had been involved.

Thank You

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:20:49 PM

Commenter Name Ray Dickerson

City Centerville **County** WAYNE **State** IN

E-Mail Address raythegadabout@gmail.com

Comments I am opposed to the rule allowing additional rifles to be used by reducing the bullet size required to .243 and eliminating the maximum rifle cartridge case length. This will allow high-powered rifles such as the .30-30 and .45-70 during the deer firearms seasons. My reason for opposing is the safety of other hunters, adjacent homes, farm animals and other

collateral damage due to the increased velocity and the chance of hunters missing their target.6

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:33:43 PM

Commenter Name Mitchell Cain

City Alexandria **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Cain Farms

E-Mail Address cainfarms@yahoo.com

Comments I really like the new proposed rule to allow rifles. I have hunted with a 308 pistol for a few years now. This will make it great for me as a reloader for pistol as well as rifles. Overall I think you will see better placed shots and cleaner kills.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:35:16 PM

Commenter Name Donovan Robinson

City Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** IN

E-Mail Address muttfarm@sbcglobal.net

Comments For safety of people adjacent to the forest and other hunters within the forest.....

Do not add more rifle choices for deer hunters.

My certified forest borders on town limits and should never have a hunter with a rifle

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:35:48 PM

Commenter Name Eric Neal

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address sciguy110@aol.com

Comments With regards to the proposed change to 312 IAC 9-3-3.d.4:

Removing the existing case length restriction (part 4.C), should increase the number of clean kills on deer without any significant ill effects. Higher power "rifle" bullets tend to drop less over distance due to their speed, thus reducing guess work in aiming/accounting for bullet drop over range as well as reducing misses or less than immediately fatal shots.

Missed shots from rifle cartridges can and most likely would still happen, yet rifle bullets tend to ricochet and deflect much less than bigger and heavier pistol caliber bullets/shotgun slugs due to their higher speed and force of impact--they tend to be destroyed rather than deflected when hitting objects. This may produce an overall safer environment in which to hunt.

Please look through Pennsylvania's deer hunting statistics, as they have similar geography and a higher population density than Indiana, yet still allow the higher power rifle rounds to be used in taking deer. Those arguing adamantly against this proposed rule change based on predictions of causing an unsafe situation based on predictions of the higher power bullets traveling unsafe distances and/or being unsafe to use around population centers would do well to research how other states have fared while allowing exactly these rounds to be utilized while in reality suffering no more hunting-related issues than does Indiana currently.

Lastly, those arguing that allowing higher power rifles to be used would be "unfair" to the deer or allow too many deer to be taken too quickly should look at all similar arguments made prior to the introduction of crossbows and even non-shotgun firearms. These same arguments were defeated historically to the betterment of deer population management, and should be overcome this time as well. Higher power rifles should lead to more clean kills--a much more humane and "fair" harvesting method. At the same time, deer numbers are managed by the number of deer that licenses allow to be taken--"tags"--NOT by the type of weapon utilized in the killing of the animal.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 3:53:50 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Duncan

City Delphi **County** CARROLL **State** IN

E-Mail Address wfs11@gmail.com

Comments I am looking forward to hunting with a high powered rifle next year. I hope this rule change passes. Thanks.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 4:20:29 PM

Commenter Name nathan pate

City Paoli **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address socomfy@gmail.com

Comments I favor allowing .243 cal for deer hunting.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 5:11:25 PM

Commenter Name Lewis Peery

City Dana **County** VERMILLION **State** In

E-Mail Address lpeery@sbcglobal.net

Comments I do not believe high powered rifles should be allowed to be used in the general firearms deer season. Their range is much too long to be safe to use in the flat terrain found in most of Indiana. The justification for their use given in the rules proposal does not take into consideration the number of hunters afield in the general firearms season and the "gotta shoot something" mentality of many of them. I think we would see bullet damage to homes, farm buildings and equipment

and probably injuries or deaths from accidental shootings.
I am a long time deer hunter and property owner and I do not feel safe going onto my own property during the deer firearm season now. Allowing high powered rifles would make that feeling much worse. I grew up in a state that allows high powered rifles [Virginia] but the terrain is much different there.
This proposed rule change as many IDNR proposals are, seems to be driven by money. ie crossbows in archery season. Do not make a great sport more dangerous just so a lot of money can be made selling rifles.
If you want to make some changes then return the muzzle loader season to a primitive weapons season. [No in lines, no scopes] and get the crossbows out of the archery season except for handicapped archers.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 5:40:07 PM

Commenter Name Art Hutter
City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ajhutter@yahoo.com
Comments do not allow high powered rifles such as 243 caliber for deer hunting ! It is too flat and too populated in this state for high powered rifles to be used, someone or residences will be damaged or killed if allowed then the the state will be just as responsible as the shooter for allowing it !!!!
Comment Received 12/31/2014 6:50:36 PM

Commenter Name Robert Onstott
City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** In
E-Mail Address quailrun1@comcast.net
Comments do not allow highpower rifle for deer hunting! I did not like it when pistol was allowed.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 6:56:09 PM

Commenter Name John Lipasek
City Rome **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address duckhunter84@gmail.com
Comments Allow the taking of deer with a rifle? Really?! Does anyone at the DNR really know how far these bullets can travel? I hunt waterfowl, particularly around farm ponds and rural lakes. I have had shotgun bullets travel by us while hunting in the past. Now the DNR wants us to contend with rifle bullets? Who is responsible for the injuries caused by a bullet hitting an individual, or individuals, dwellings, or private property that are not in the shooters eye sight? I am sure the IN state DNR would deny responsibility but they should be responsible in part for passing this rule change.

Think about this; Northeast Indiana is a heavily populated and/or developed area. These bullets can and will travel past or hit houses, people, and/or children. This is not a possibility, statistically this is a fact.

Comment Received 12/31/2014 7:25:40 PM

Commenter Name Beverly Troyer
City Churubusco **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address beverlytroyer@yahoo.com
Comments I am strongly against the use of high-powered rifles for hunting. We live in the country next to several popular hunting areas, but every year more houses go up in this area. More walkers use the trails in our woods. We should not have to hide during deer season because it is no longer safe to enjoy our own property.
Comment Received 12/31/2014 8:08:41 PM

Commenter Name Darrell Fasel
City Hebron **County** PORTER **State** IN
E-Mail Address tkyhunter2000@yahoo.com
Comments I hope that you pass the high powered rifle rule
Comment Received 12/31/2014 8:57:19 PM

Commenter Name Lance Bratcher
City Porter **County** PORTER **State** IN
Organization (optional) Bratcher Farms
E-Mail Address bratcher748@aol.com
Comments It's about time these changes were made! Thank you DNR!!
Comment Received 1/1/2015 3:32:52 AM

Commenter Name Don Ruckman
City Pierceton **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tdrukman@yahoo.com
Comments I think the use of straight walled pistol cartridges in rifles for deer hunting is fine (short range). To allow the use

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|---|
| <p>of high powered rifle cartridges is asking for disaster to much range (population-human) too much wounding of game. Comment Received 1/1/2015 8:35:40 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Mark Thornburg City Winchester County RANDOLPH State Indiana E-Mail Address markthornburg01@icloud.com Comments This comment is in reference to the deer hunting rifle change proposal. I do not agree that any changes should be made to allow for what most would consider to be a high powered rifle or cartridge use in the State of Indiana. I believe that the safety of hunters and non hunters would be jeopardized. The human population density is too great and the expanse of land between residences too little. I believe the risk of injury or death from a stray bullet is too great with the large number of deer hunters in Indiana. Comment Received 1/1/2015 9:28:50 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Barbara Lyon City Seymour County JACKSON State Indiana E-Mail Address barblyon61@gmail.com Comments Yes, to rifle caliber changes. Comment Received 1/1/2015 11:12:54 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name George Gray City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana E-Mail Address madisonoutdoors@yahoo.com Comments To whom it may concern, I am writing to express my support of the proposal to change the legal types of firearms allowed for deer hunting. I support the change because I believe this will allow hunters to use more effective and efficient firearms to harvest deer. Allowing additional calibers to be used will also open up opportunities for some hunters that may not otherwise have the chance to harvest a deer. Some of the proposed calibers will also be very effective for youth hunters. Getting kids hunting is very important and this will be a very important means to get them in the woods. Comment Received 1/1/2015 6:05:27 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Chellsey Gray City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana E-Mail Address chjjones@gmail.com Comments Dear Natural Resources Commission, I am writing to support the proposal to change the legal firearms allowed to deer hunt with. This proposal will allow hunters a greater variety of firearms to hunt with. This should allow more hunters the opportunity to hunt, which will be positive in several ways. It should increase license revenue because more people will hunt and it will allow hunters to be more effective. I believe the change will affect deer hunting positively for years to come in Indiana. Comment Received 1/1/2015 6:22:40 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name James Redmond City Paris Crossing County JENNINGS State IN E-Mail Address jaredmo71@gmail.com Comments Changing the size for rifle shells to be .243 will make it easier to control the deer population and expose our kids to a different way of hunting. I see this as a positive change. Comment Received 1/1/2015 9:15:21 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Brian Bishop City Columbia City County WHITLEY State IN E-Mail Address bbishop1@hotmail.com Comments Briefly outlining my concerns regarding the proposed rule change allowing .243 and larger bullets, I feel that safety of hunters and rural residents will be decreased, and that more deer will be wounded and not retrieved. I believe our DNR officials can appreciate these without the need for me to articulate specific scenarios. My proposal would exclude specific calibers that have the longest range potential, as well as limit use of high power rifles to specific areas of the state where terrain is more conducive for their use. Having been a deer hunter for over 20 years, in the end, I want to feel safe in the woods and know that the animals will be harvested in a sporting manner. Comment Received 1/1/2015 10:44:02 PM</p> |

Commenter Name Herm Abbott
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address habbottp@gmail.com
Comments The need for a larger high powered cartridges is not required. I have hunted deer for the past 30+ years and have used shotgun, muzzle loader and rifle to shot well over 100 yards. As Phil Bloom mention an ethical shot these weapons provide this.
Comment Received 1/2/2015 7:26:15 AM

Commenter Name Kimberly Penrod
City Bluffton **County** WELLS **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Wells County Whitetails Unlimited
E-Mail Address kimberly.penrod@e-farmcredit.com
Comments I would like to express a "No" vote regarding proposal 312 IAC 9-3-3 expanding the use of rifles during the Indiana deer season. I strongly believe the use of these rifles would only encourage unethical behavior. As a founding member of the Wells County Whitetails Unlimited Chapter, I would like to see more emphasis on proper deer herd management and hunting skills and accuracy. Having the ability to take 200-300 yard shots may only result in higher deer harvest numbers rather than quality deer management due to the inability to properly access the target. I also have concerns about that type of range and the safety of other hunters, land owners and motorist should a hunter miss their intended target.
 I would also like to express a "Yes" vote to the proposal 312 IAC 9-3-4 allowing an antlerless deer to be taken during youth season in an "A" county. These are important opportunities for our youth to get involved with a wonderful tradition and learning experience.
 Thank you for your consideration and time.
Comment Received 1/2/2015 9:00:25 AM

Commenter Name Stephen Thurston
City Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address sjt6052@yahoo.com
Comments I am totally in favor of allowing the use of .243 or larger rifles for deer hunting in the state of Indiana. Many years ago there were many small farms that dotted the countryside and I could see that using a high-powered rifle might cause some safety issues. That, however, has changed in recent times. There are no longer any mom and pop farms as they have all been bought up by the mega-farm operators. You can go for miles now and only see 1 huge farm operation. This, to me anyway, has pretty much eliminated the safety concerns. I, personally live on a farm that has 180 acres but the adjacent farm consists of over 2000 acres. There is an area of which I can hunt that is almost 2 miles of wide-open land in either direction. I support the rule change also as it will allow for a more humane 1 shot kill which to me is very important. There are too many times in my years of hunting that I have found dead deer that have been wounded and suffered a slow death simply because they were shot by a low caliber weapon along with a misplaced shot. Please pass this rule change..I consider it a priveledge to be able to hunt openly in this fine state.
Comment Received 1/2/2015 9:20:19 AM

Commenter Name Tim Kuhns
City Lizton **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mauser03@aol.com
Comments I am in favor of expanding the legal rifle cartridges for the deer firearms season. The current rules have allowed new cartridge development that has resulted in legal cartridges that rival or even exceed many traditional deer cartridge ballistics. I feel it is only fair to allow those of us with the more conventional deer rifles to be able to utilize them to hunt deer in Indiana. As far as I am aware, safety has not been compromised throughout the various rule changes that have allowed more and more cartridges to hunt deer and I don't believe the current rule change would be an exception.
Comment Received 1/2/2015 9:24:54 AM

Commenter Name patrick litchfield
City walkerton **County** MARSHALL **State** in.
E-Mail Address litch48@inbox.com
Comments this comment is on the rule change 3121ac9-7-10 sunfish, this has to be the most idiotic proposed rule change ever, sunfish populations have soared and are in no danger of shrinking, this rule if adopted will only serve to over populate indiana lakes with more sunfish than ever and stunt there growth due to under harvesting of them, I ask you please reconsider this rule change, it is not needed, thank you patrick litchfield
Comment Received 1/2/2015 9:34:42 AM

Commenter Name Evan Cox
City New Richmond **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ecoxshowpigs02@aol.com
Comments I have been a hunter for 10 years, and I think the idea of the legalization of high powered rifles for deer hunting is not safe. We are dealing with a possible trajectory of hundreds of yards, in an area that is mostly open fields. I think the firearms season, where everyone is out on the opener is dangerous enough with the allowed firearms, now, add in high

powered rifles and I think its purely not safe.
Comment Received 1/2/2015 10:30:43 AM

Commenter Name Aaron Rausch
City Chesterton **County** PORTER **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address aaronrausch@yahoo.com

Comments Overall, I support the proposed new rifle cartridge requirements for hunting deer. I think this will allow firearms that most other states allow while aiding in clean kills. My one concern would be of hunters acting responsibly and not thinking they can take 200 plus yard shots without being an excellent marksman and fully understanding the dynamics a much flatter trajectory bullet brings.

Comment Received 1/2/2015 10:56:08 AM

Commenter Name David L. Erdly
City Albion, **County** NOBLE **State** In.
E-Mail Address derdly@qsiautomation.com

Comments I'm absolutely against the rule change that states; any "rifle" .243 or larger. Leave it at .357 or larger. Makes no sense, too flat of terrain, too populated, too many hunters, too close together. The deer herd has been kept in check or reduced with the legal weapons that can be used now! In firearms season you see a vehicle parked every 1/2 mile or so with one or more guys hunting or someone hunting their own land, and this is every day of the week. I have 10-12 hunters within 1/2 to 3/4 of a miles radius of my house in firearms season. Too many for Hi Powered Rifles! People argue and say what's the difference, you can shoot coyotes and groundhogs with rifles. What a pathetic argument. I see maybe one or 2 people a month parked along the road groundhog hunting in the summer and hardly anyone coyote hunting. I've also heard that Hi Powered Rifles presents more opportunity for the hunter? My idea of more opportunity is more deer here in Noble county. THE NUMBERS ARE DOWN! I've hunted hard for 45 years in this county and other than in the late 60's and early 70's when the deer herd was growing, has the deer herd been so low! We don't need these Rifles to shoot farther and "try" to kill deer more at longer ranges. I want to thank you for taking my comment on this topic. In mine and many many many other hunters opinion we DO NOT need nor want this rule change. This is Indiana not Montana!

- Where can I find out what everyone else is saying about this possible rule change?

- When will I know if it becomes law or is kicked out? Thank you,

Comment Received 1/2/2015 11:32:48 AM

Commenter Name JAMES GERENCSE
City FORT WAYNE **County** ALLEN **State** INDIANA
E-Mail Address gerencserj@msn.com

Comments I oppose the rule change for rifles during the Deer Gun Season. My first concern is safety and the second is over-harvesting by a few which affects the deer populations on neighboring properties. The habits of deer are to move to areas of food and cover. Individuals that have the resources to develop large game plots are able to draw deer in from neighboring properties, greatly reducing hunting opportunities on the property around them. The big game rifles will allow those few to harvest multiple deer in only a few seconds.

Thank you,

James Gerencser

Comment Received 1/2/2015 11:47:51 AM

Commenter Name Ted Proctor
City Brazil **County** PARKE **State** IN
E-Mail Address tkp@lycos.com

Comments I hope that this rule package is approved. I am particularly interested in allowing centerfire rifles during deer season.

Comment Received 1/2/2015 1:20:01 PM

Commenter Name Dustin Shick
City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dshick1983@yahoo.com

Comments Hello. I am an avid outdoorsman that is concerned about the whitetail population due to the overabundance of antlerless permits and the special antlerless season. I live in Delaware County which has a quota of 4 antlerless deer. I have seen a rapid decrease in the doe population in many of the areas I am allowed to hunt. Many of my fellow outdoorsman in the same area are seeing the same results. The special antlerless season is just a money making scheme. It does nothing for management or protecting Indiana's wildlife recreation for future generations. In the special antlerless season, people are killing bred doe's and bucks that have prematurely shed their antlers possibly due to a harsh winter. That will quickly wipe out the deer population. Please adjust quotas properly and remove the special antlerless season totally. Indiana hunters were allowed 46 days afield with firearms, much which nearly spanned an entire breeding season. We need to adjust the amount of time firearms are allowed afield and how it directly affects the breeding season. We could look at our neighboring state of Illinois for reference. I also have another topic that myself, as well as MANY others are concerned with. The adoption of high powered rifles .243 caliber and larger. Not all of the terrain in Indiana is suitable for these rifles, especially in densely populated areas with many hunters in the field at once. The bullets can travel a much further distance. People often shoot and dont realize they are responsible for that bullet until it stops, regardless of where and what it hits. I am concerned about all the novice hunters who line up at Walmart the day before firearms season, buy your 1000 yard .308 rifle, and take

it hunting the very next morning without sighting it in and no practice at a target, much less a respectable quarry. Indiana has enough problems with deer management, we dont need people taking 500 yard shots on animals. If people cannot harvest a whitetail with the current legal equipment, they should learn how to be a more proficient hunter and study their quarry. Although I am not for the .243 and up rifles, I would like to see the 10mm round added for pistols to hunt deer with. The 10mm is more than capable of taking a mature whitetail. Our neighboring state of Ohio allows this cartridge. Thank you for you time. Keep the population alive for future generations!!!

Comment Received 1/2/2015 3:36:27 PM

Commenter Name Dustin Traylor
City Velpen **County** PIKE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dltray354@gmail.com

Comments I fully support this proposed rule change! I few reasons why I support this are: 1) cheaper ammunition, currently the slugs I shoot are \$14.99 a box/5 compared to 30.06 ammunition that are \$20.99/20. 2) I think the woods will be safer with rifles compared to slug guns. There would not be as many 3-5 shot bursts as I have been accustomed to hearing. Rifles are designed to be accurate compared to say smooth bore slug guns. Yes rifles have more range but with that is also better accuracy. I think this proposal is overdue and I look forward to being able to use my larger calibers to hunt a deer.

Comment Received 1/2/2015 10:01:57 PM

Commenter Name Shane Kneer
City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Sk74ford@hotmail.com

Comments I don't think that Indiana should allow the use of high powered rifles to be used for hunting deer. The weapons that are used now are quite capable of killing deer. High powered rifles are not suitable for Indiana. Their are farm houses all over the state and it would be too dangerous to allow a gun that can shoot so far. It would make it dangerous for other hunters and non hunters. It would also take most of the sport and challenge out of deer hunting when you would be able to shoot a deer at long distances. Over the last few years, Indiana hunters have kept the deer population in check with the current weapons used. High powered rifles are a bad idea for Indiana. Thanks.

Comment Received 1/2/2015 11:43:28 PM

Commenter Name ANNOU HERIC
City MICHIGAN CITY **County** LAPORTE **State** INDIANA
E-Mail Address anuheric@comcast.net

Comments "THE LOVE FOR ALL LIVING CREATURES IS THE MOST NOBLE ATTRIBUTE OF MAN." CHARLES DARWIN
"OUR TASK MUST BE TO WIDEN OUR CIRCLE OF COMPASSION TO EMBRACE ALL LIVING CREATURES AND THE WHOLE OF NATURE IN ITS BEAUTY." ALBERT EINSTEIN
"WE CAN JUDGE THE HEART OF A MAN BY HIS TREATMENT OF ANIMALS." IMMANUEL KANT. "NON VIOLENCE LEADS TO THE HIGHEST ETHICS, WHICH IS THE GOAL OF ALL EVOLUTION. UNTIL WE STOP HARMING ALL OTHER LIVING BEINGS, WE ARE STILL SAVAGES."
DURING A SINGLE HUNTING SEASON, HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS MAY KILL AS MANY AS 134 MILLION ANIMALS. BOWHUNTING IS ONE OF THE CRUELEST FORMS OF HUNTING. IT WOUNDS MORE ANIMALS THAN IT KILLS. FOR EVERY ANIMAL DRAGGED FROM THE WOODS BY A BOWHUNTER, AT LEAST ONE ANIMAL IS LEFT WOUNDED TO DIE.
EASTERN RELIGIONS BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION (MANY IN THE WEST DO ALSO AND ARE GAINING PROOF), WHERE ONE CAN ALSO COME BACK AS AN ANIMAL.....

Comment Received 1/3/2015 1:27:16 AM

Commenter Name Jack Munday
City Plainfield **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address flyaz@att.net

Comments Hi,
I would like to offer my support in this Rule being passed. I support changing the rules for allowing higher caliber rifles in deer hunting.
Thanks

Comment Received 1/3/2015 9:03:58 AM

Commenter Name gary r Chandler
City fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** indiana
E-Mail Address garyc54@aol.com

Comments Hello, i am a Indiana deer hunter ...I am "opposed" to the proposed new rules changes.....OPPOSED...to the use of high powered guns!

Comment Received 1/3/2015 9:21:30 AM

Commenter Name James Holse
City Ashley **County** STEUBEN **State** IN
E-Mail Address jrhols@frontier.com

Comments I am opposed to this rule change. I live out in the country and I do not want to fear going outside during deer hunting season.

Comment Received 1/3/2015 11:22:48 AM

Commenter Name Warren McDonald
City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Indiana Walleye Association Member
E-Mail Address warren@grayseed.com

Comments Many of us in the Indiana Walleye Association feel that there does not need to be a distinction between IN 26 and the rest of the state. There have been several discussions and most try to keep 16 inch fish, which are pan fryers anyway. Brookville Lake is used to stock the rest of the state, why wouldn't regulation state that it needs to be 16" as well. The 16" limit would slow fishing for 1 year, but may actually cause some natural reproduction in lakes south of 26. Contacting the walleye association and asking others in it that have far more knowledge than me would probably be very well recieved. Indianawalley.com I only fish south of 26 and some of the biggest walleye around is Monroe Lake

Comment Received 1/3/2015 11:29:27 AM

Commenter Name Paul Newcomer
City Syracuse **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN
E-Mail Address pknconst@gmail.com

Comments I am not necessarily opposed to the new changes regarding rifle cartridges for deer hunting. HOWEVER, there is one very popular round that NEEDS to be exempted in writing. The Russian 7.62x39 cartridge is primarily made, and chambered in high capacity, semi automatic rifles. It also is in very limited supply in soft point bullets. Mainly it is a full metal jacketed military round. Allowing this, minimally effective cartridge for deer hunting will only result in "woods spraying", endangering human and domestic animal lives, and the wounding of wildlife. Other underpowered cartridges are currently banned for deer hunting, and this round desperately needs to be added to the list.

Comment Received 1/3/2015 3:43:56 PM

Commenter Name Chuck Zellers
City Winamac **County** PULASKI **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Chuck.Zellers@braunlift.com

Comments high powered rifles are not what we need in Indiana. Michigan at least has split the State for Rifles because of safety.

The DNR should be more concerned about the amount of woodlands, wetlands, Etc being removed for ag purposes. Our county is a perfect example with several hundred acres being stripped of natural resources.

Allowing rifles will only increase the risk of safety, encourage trespassing and increase poaching.

This is not a good rule or proposal. Do something to preserve your wildlife in Indiana.

Comment Received 1/3/2015 6:34:21 PM

Commenter Name Janet St. John
City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** IN
E-Mail Address jstjohn@seidata.com

Comments I am in favor of use of high power rifles for deer season.DPpEQ

Comment Received 1/3/2015 7:51:20 PM

Commenter Name Brice Hensley
City Argos **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address skiebuster@yahoo.com

Comments Thank you for the proposed rule on being able to hunt whitetail with a .243 Rifle. I feel this is a good thing for Hoosiers.

With the removal of a maximum case length, we who don't have the money or the "load our own" capabilities will be able to hunt with more accurate firearms.

Speaking with many other hunters, some complain and are against it because of poaching. Poachers already use rifles, so that argument is null.

Others say hunters will start shooting to far, and this already happens.

Rifles do the job more humanely than saboted or standard slug guns.

Thanks again

Lord willing my daughter will be able to hunt with our .243 for the 2015 youth hunt.

Brice Hensley

Comment Received 1/3/2015 9:15:54 PM

Commenter Name todd frankenberge
City evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address kif8916@yahoo.com

Comments its hard enough to gun hunt and not get shot by careless hunters.our land down here is to flat and open for high

power rifles .if you want to lower the population of hunters ,this would be a good way to do so .with these riffles you could kill people and not even know it.thanks for putting our lifes at risk in and out of the woods.bullets don't know to stay in woods and not to strike people!!!!!!kl

Comment Received 1/4/2015 10:20:47 AM

Commenter Name Scott Franke

City Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sfranke@aol.com

Comments i completely support this change. It's time. I travel out of state each year to give Alabama my Hoosier \$\$ so I can hunt their (smaller and substandard to our Indiana deer). My buddies have all gone to smokeless, which throws a very big rock now 300 yards. I have taken 3 deer with my 243 in the last 3 years. None walked more than 15 yards.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 10:48:25 AM

Commenter Name Timothy Taylor

City Linton **County** GREENE **State** IN

Organization (optional) Retired DNR

E-Mail Address t.w.taylor@comcast.net

Comments I believe the expansion of legal cartridges for deer hunting in Indiana is both unsafe and unnecessary. Such long range ammunition in what in Indiana is a generally a short range hunt presents far to great a hazard to neighbors and other sportsmen. I would not allow any hunter to use such weaponry on my land. Use on state fish and wildlife properties has the potential to endanger many other users due to their extended range.

The prohibition on 'full metal jacketed bullets' does nothing but complicate the job of DNR Law Enforcement staff. There is no telling what type of bullet may have been fired after the shot. Most availably high powered cartridges contain fmj slugs.

Please do not approve the use of .243 and other high velocity ammunition.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 1:27:52 PM

Commenter Name Sam Milton

City Kingman **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address samnpatty@hughes.net

Comments I would like to see the changes on legal weapons for deer passed. Thank you

Comment Received 1/4/2015 2:57:41 PM

Commenter Name Michelle Roush

City Shoals **County** MARTIN **State** In

Organization (optional) white river outfitter

E-Mail Address info@whiterivercabinrental.com

Comments It is unsafe and damaging to the herd to let larger rifle casing for deer hunting. Indiana needs to model itself like Illinois. The deer herd is down in population do to the over harvest of does in many counties.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 3:12:51 PM

Commenter Name William Cox

City Richmond **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) 1941

E-Mail Address missmydog@comcast.net

Comments #933 item 6 - Rifles should not be allowed. No hunting area in Indiana isolated enough to guarantee the safety of citizens in there home or traveling on public highways

Comment Received 1/4/2015 3:20:11 PM

Commenter Name David Porter

City Cayuga **County** VERMILLION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Dporter@speakeasy.net

Comments In regards to the new rifle caliber rule, I think it is a great rule proposal. I am concerned about the hollow point projectile requirement. Most of the bullets used for harvesting big game are either polymer tipped, soft point, or spitzer. I understand the reason hollow point bullets are required, but think the rule should include polymer tipped bullets as Indiana ok. Thanks!

Comment Received 1/4/2015 3:29:10 PM

Commenter Name R. James Ely

City Williamsport **County** WARREN **State** IN

E-Mail Address green_thumb09@yahoo.com

Comments As an Indiana hunter and land owner, I strongly support the proposed changes in allowed rifle cartridges. Having been part of Pennsylvania hunting, I agree these additional rifles expand the hunting experience without compromising safety or the health of the deer herd.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 4:23:40 PM

Commenter Name Barbara Ely

City Williamsport **County** WARREN **State** IN

E-Mail Address green_thumb09@yahoo.com

Comments As an Indiana hunter and landowner I support the proposed changes to rifle use in hunting.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 4:29:05 PM

Commenter Name stephen susko

City cedar lake **County** LAKE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address stephen.susko@yahoo.com

Comments My opinion is to not allow high powered rifles to be legalized for hunting deer in indiana, current choices of firearms n cartridges available for use is more than sufficant to take deer here in our state! I for one am not comfortable hunting the gun season on some of the public lands available to me knowing someone is out there in an adjacent area capable of shooting towards me at a distance not knowing I am there! Next will be mandatory hunter orange head to toe! No thank you

Comment Received 1/4/2015 4:30:43 PM

Commenter Name John parry

City beech Grove **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address john-parry@att.net

Comments I would like to comment on rule 312 IAC 9-7-10. I am an avid bluegill , redear fisherman. I usually spend time at several locations including a 5 day trip to green Sullivan in the spring. I feel the new rule for a 25 bag limit on sunfish is to small. I know a lot of fisherman that go to green Sullivan including me that would stop going if you can only keep 25 fish a day. I have been going there for around 10 years some days I may only catch 25 keepers and some days 75. All the years I have gone down there I haven't noticed decrease in size or numbers caught on a specific lake.I feel you will hurt the local economy by changing this rule and have an overpopulation of small sunfish. Sincerely, John Parry

Comment Received 1/4/2015 5:13:13 PM

Commenter Name Randy Young

City Battle Ground **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address randy@moonlightarms.com

Comments I could not find a reliable link for the Pennsylvania Game Commission's study in reference to my previous comments, so I have uploaded the PDF. Here is a link to it: http://www.moonlightarms.com/rifle_shotgun_study.pdf

To save yourself lots of time (!), I suggest you read the conclusion reached on pages 43 & 44 of the study. (Excerpted below)

"6.0 CONCLUSION

"Incident rates could not be standardized for a comparison of the risk of shotgun usage versus rifle usage when examining the PGC's incident data. Understanding this limitation, the data was useful in describing the geographic distribution of incidents and the spatial analysis shows significant clusters of incidents both inside and outside the Special Regulations Areas.

"The 1998 PGC study utilized the maximum range to determine the danger area, which assumed abnormal behaviors and accidental acts. This study used an alternative method for developing danger areas both in technique and assumptions. The danger areas produced in this study are based on the concept of the probability of an aiming error and a subsequent ricochet. This approach produced a probable danger zone around the hunter and the risk was compared for the rifle-ammunition combinations by examining the resulting danger areas.

"Contrary to the 1998 study, this study concludes that comparing risk using only the maximum range obtained at a 35-degree firing elevation and the corresponding danger area of the firearm-ammunition combination provides the policy maker an incomplete picture. When discharging the examined firearm-ammunition combinations with large (10 degrees) and moderate (5 degrees) aiming errors, the danger areas of the shotgun and muzzleloader are less than that of a rifle; hence, given this firing condition, the shotgun and muzzleloader are less risky than the rifle. However, shotguns firing modern sabotated slugs have a larger danger area than the .30-06 rifle when the angle of elevation is approximately level (0 degrees); hence, given this firing condition, the shotgun is riskier than the rifle. In other words, the typical hunter discharging a 12 gauge shotgun fitted with a rifled barrel firing a .50-caliber sabotated modern high velocity ammunition at a deer on level terrain is riskier than a hunter firing a .30-06 with a 150 grain expanding bullet at the same deer. The muzzleloader proved to have less risk in all firing conditions.

"The explanation for the last case where the shotgun is more risky relates to how the .30-caliber projectile interacts with the impact media at shallow (low) angles and its aerodynamic characteristics after ricochet. The smaller cross sectional area of the .30-caliber projectile and its shape contributes to a higher loss of energy on impact and after ricochet the .30-caliber projectile tends to tumble in flight with a high drag. Test data confirm that the .50-caliber projectile's larger cross sectional area and its shape contribute to less energy loss on shallow angles of impact and after ricochet the projectile exhibits less drag which results in a greater total distance traveled.

'It is recommended that the PGC address the public perception that a shotgun with modern high velocity ammunition is less risky than centerfire rifles in all circumstances. This has some urgency since legally mandated Special Regulations Areas have promoted the assumption that shotguns are always less risky than a rifle for hunting deer. Frangible, or reduced ricochet, projectiles, for hunting firearms should be investigated as an alternative to the mandatory use of shotguns or muzzleloaders and as a means of managing risk in Special Regulations Areas. While the suitability of these projectiles for hunting deer remains unknown, the nature of these projectiles to break apart on impact would increase safety.'

Comment Received 1/4/2015 5:53:14 PM

Commenter Name George Smith

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) none

E-Mail Address c14smith@gmail.com

Comments High powered rifles during hunting season? Ludicrous idea. First rule of being a sportsman, respect all animals and fish. Between canned hunting and now high powered weapons, where is common sense? Please, reconsider passing this bill, it is not in the best interest of anyone.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 6:47:54 PM

Commenter Name David Gearhart

City Hebron **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) n/a

E-Mail Address gearhart@netnitco.net

Comments I feel it is extremely reckless to even consider allowing the use of high powered rifles for hunting purposes in the state of Indiana. Perhaps you people need to read up on the ballistics of some of the calibers you are thinking of legalizing. You will be putting thousands of people and property in harms way

Comment Received 1/4/2015 9:46:57 PM

Commenter Name Jeremy Melton

City Portage **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) N/a

E-Mail Address Indbass@comcast.net

Comments I would like to say I began hunting in this great state at the age of 9. I tagged my first deer at ten years old. I have successfully hunted with the allowed equipment since that time in 1990. I find it a challenge and great experience to harvest deer with the currently allowed firearms. I'll get to the point. Allowing high powered rifles in this state is a mistake and I really doubt that myself or family will continue to contribute to our beloved sport. We do not have the terrain to safely accomodate such calibers. Yes some modern muzzleloaders are capable. Most people do not have the skill or patience to make one capable at such a distance. Most would not attempt a shot of 500 yards. But given a inexpensive rifle and a box of ammo any one is immediately capable and most likely would take a 500 yard shot knowing they have a "high powered" rifle in their hands. Furthermore if one does take a 500 yard shot with a muzzleloader they have about a full minutes worth of reloading to accomplish before being able to take a second shot. I grew up hunting both private and public land and have encountered many people who I believe shouldn't carry more than a whistle and a stick but took comfort in knowing that I could be out of their effective range with a short walk. Please do not allow this change to take place. I'm not saying restrict everything. I myself purchased a larger caliber gun this year (450 bushmaster). I still would not attempt a shot over 150 yards. I know it is easier to just open it wide open but calibers such as a .308 or .300 WIN MAG are excessive for this state. I have hunted with and around all types over the years. I know people who will immediately buy the largest legal caliber they can just because they are allowed. They will sight it in at 100 yards and use "kentucky windage" for anything beyond. I don't even have access to a range to practice shots of that distance even though the rifles are capable. I ask, and I know many who agree but will not comment, to please take great time and consideration into this change. I for one will no longer be in the woods come deer season if I know certain weapons are out there with me.

Also I believe I can also comment here on another issue. I was very disappointed to have saved for two years for a lifetime license years ago for it to have been made unavailable without notice. I am not rich. Did not have much disposable income but had saved up and actually had the application filled out at the time it was made unavailable. With a certain number of these licenses being out there I think they should be able to be passed on. For a fee of course. Even the full amount of what the cost was. If someone becomes unable to hunt, moves out of state and does not intend to return, dies or just gives up the sport, they should be able to pass that on to family or whoever they feel. My father and brother both purchased them. My brother still is able to enjoy the benefits of his but my father has since passed on. I would gladly pay the cost of what the license was to transfer it to myself. Not so much for the money but just the convenience of not having to go and purchase multiple license. I hunt from opening day to the end of season and hunt multiple species. It gets overwhelming to make sure I have the proper license for what I am hunting. Just my two cents. Thank you for listening.

Comment Received 1/4/2015 10:24:21 PM

Commenter Name John M Walker

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address jwalkerfamily@comcast.net

Comments Allowing .243 and other high-powered rifles is a good idea. I think the result will be greater accuracy, more human kills, and fewer missed shots.

Comment Received 1/5/2015 5:04:33 AM

Commenter Name Steve Hajek
City Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** IN
E-Mail Address srhajek@gmail.com
Comments With disease and predators are deer heard is lower.I believe we need to let herd rebuild for a couple years by lowering doe permits & depredations tags.shortening gun season would help also
Comment Received 1/5/2015 6:48:56 AM

Commenter Name kevin kluemper
City winslow **County** PIKE **State** indiana
E-Mail Address kevin.kluemper@aes.com
Comments i support the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting.
Comment Received 1/5/2015 6:55:22 AM

Commenter Name Ray Foushee
City Hurdle Mills **County** Out of State **State** North Carolina
E-Mail Address rfoushee@personcounty.net
Comments Indiana currently has a become a state with real trophy potential and I would have to say that this is partly due to the current rifle cartridge restriction. If you open this up so that everyone has the potential to shoot 300-500 yards, you will end up with more wounded/dead bucks and the life span of the bucks will decrease. And we all know that the life span is critical to that trophy status. Just look at my state of North Carolina. We have always been able to use rifles and very few deer make it to that trophy status. That is why we spend big money to come to Indiana to hunt. Passing this proposed rule will be the first step at undermining the revenue stream brought in by the Out-of-State deer hunter.
Comment Received 1/5/2015 2:12:12 PM

Commenter Name Blade Weber
City Edwardsport **County** KNOX **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Weber.bmw8m@yahoo.com
Comments The rifle change needs to happen to allow people in southern indiana to hunt the farmland more efficiently because we have lots of open space with plenty of safe areas to use high powered rifles
Comment Received 1/5/2015 2:28:39 PM

Commenter Name Brandon Mowery
City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address moweryb2067@gmail.com
Comments I am strongly opposed to the high-powered rifle rule change in Indiana for our deer seasons. Thank you for considering the voice of the state's outdoorsmen and women. I sincerely hope the state makes better choices in the conservation of our natural resources.
Comment Received 1/5/2015 4:51:00 PM

Commenter Name Isaac Gottschalk
City Wabash **County** WABASH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bearsfanatic23@gmail.com
Comments I oppose. I vote against the proposed high powered rifle rule change.
 Thank you!
Comment Received 1/5/2015 4:53:34 PM

Commenter Name Chris Newport
City Batesville **County** RIPLEY **State** IN
E-Mail Address newchrisport@yahoo.com
Comments I am in support of the new rifle changes in 312 IAC 9-3-3.
Comment Received 1/5/2015 6:11:48 PM

Commenter Name Alex Newport
City Batesville **County** RIPLEY **State** IN
E-Mail Address newchrisport@yahoo.com
Comments I am in support of the new rifle changes in 312 IAC 9-3-3. I got a 7mm-08 rifle for Christmas and hope to be using it next season.
 Thanks
 Alex Newport
 Age 12
Comment Received 1/5/2015 6:14:49 PM

Commenter Name Mike Long
City Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Mike.Long@AltusSolutions.com
Comments I have serious concerns over the rifle changes. This would allow people to run around with rather inexpensive 300 RUM rifles shooting at deer. Have you met the people that show up at the gun shop the night before opening day trying

to buy a firearm to hunt with the next morning?

Comment Received 1/5/2015 11:58:10 PM

Commenter Name Paul Dustin

City Leesburg County KOSCIUSKO State INDIANA

E-Mail Address gunner7243@yahoo.com

Comments I do not think we should add any more rifles to the deer hunting approve weapon list due to the deer population being down the last 2 years from blue tongue disease and I'll be related diseases to it I think that we should just stay with the weapons we have now and I think you'll have more injuries if you have high powered rifles from the way people go out and shoot

Comment Received 1/6/2015 9:05:36 AM

Commenter Name Anthony Everson

City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State IN.

E-Mail Address grtstretchinsky@gmail.com

Comments I believe that allowing rifles over .243 to hunt whitetail is a GREAT Idea!

Would really like it though if there was a decrease in bonus antlerless tags available for purchase. I have hunted in Female county for 20yrs now and have noticed a decline in the heard...

Thank you for listening,

Anthony S. Everson

Comment Received 1/6/2015 9:18:23 AM

Commenter Name Tony Webb

City Noblesville County HAMILTON State INDIANA

E-Mail Address agwebb1@gmail.com

Comments High powered rifles do not have a good place in Indiana. Especially northern Indiana. The land is too flat and too open. the only thing to stop bullets are houses. the idea of someone shooting a 300 win mag in Indiana is scary. also cancelling grouse season is probably the right call short term. The better solution would be to manage the grouse. it seems like Indiana has avoided this for a long time. i don't know if it is the tree huggers or what the reason is but the DNR is charged with managing habitat for grouse as well as deer, turkeys, and quail. We need an active plan and actions for managing grouse habitat.

Comment Received 1/6/2015 9:54:27 AM

Commenter Name Les Wadzinski

City Unionville County MONROE State Indiana

Organization (optional) citizen, outdoorsman

E-Mail Address lwadzins@indiana.edu

Comments I am opposed to allowing high powered rifles as proposed in 312-IAC-9-3-3. I take exception to the rational provided: First, the deer harvest indicated was for a 2012 and it is my understanding the harvest decreased in 2013, thus negating the rational for more herd reduction. Also, smokeless powder muzzleloaders should not be compared to high powered rifles because they simply are not the same; high powered rifles can go 1000 yards, twice that of a muzzleloader. Also, the rational cites Michigan as a good example but high powered rifles are only allowed in the Upper Peninsula, which is nothing like Indiana. Southern Michigan is like populated similarly to Indiana and high powered rifles are not allowed. Which brings me to my last point: safety. I live in the country and have no problem with people hunting nearby. However, if thousands of hunters take to the woods with long range shooting capability, I indeed fear for my family's safety. It is not correct to apply nearby the rules of states such as Kentucky and Pennsylvania which do not have nearly the open space that Indiana does. Finally, it is my understanding this petition was brought forward at the request of just a few people. It appears most everyone, hunters and no-hunters alike, oppose this proposal. Please do not pass it. Thank you.

Comment Received 1/6/2015 9:56:39 AM

Commenter Name Scott Schwing

City rising sun County OHIO State Indiana

E-Mail Address schwings@embarqmail.com

Comments Lower the doe tags in all the counties! 8 in Ohio co. Is ridiculous. Sightings have dropped significantly in the last 5 years, EHD devastated our area two years ago.

Comment Received 1/6/2015 4:18:22 PM

Commenter Name Allan Noyes

City Angola County STEUBEN State IN

E-Mail Address deere40@frontier.com

Comments Please do not allow High power rifles to be used for deer hunting. The areas in Northern Michigan, Pennsylvania and Kentucky are not comparable to Indiana hunting. The deer herd has been sufficiently reduced with out the need of high power rifles. I am sure most sportsmen and women are against using rifles as well as law enforcement.

Comment Received 1/6/2015 5:49:59 PM

Commenter Name Roy Overshiner

City Salem County WASHINGTON State Indiana

E-Mail Address roberts_257@yahoo.com

Comments The new rule proposed for deer rifles is a great idea. It will allow for a broader range of choices for hunters and will enable hunters to more effectively take game. I remember the days when the older deer slugs just did not dispatch deer very well. With modern controlled expansion bullets fired at a faster speed the deer taken will be done so much more humanely. One good effective shot is much safer than five wild ineffective ones
Comment Received 1/7/2015 3:20:55 AM

Commenter Name paul hendren
City lawrenceburg **County** DEARBORN **State** indiana
Organization (optional) n/a
E-Mail Address paul.hendren73@gmail.com
Comments I approve hunting with high powered rifles. there should be a 4 or 5 shot limit for magazines. the people against it don't tell you that you can already use high powered pistols& you can buy a high powered rifle as long as it is .357 in cal.& the brass case is 1.16 & 1.80 in length. I hope it passes.
Comment Received 1/7/2015 9:45:07 AM

Commenter Name Kenny Gowen
City Elberfeld **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address gowen@sit-co.net
Comments I am opposed to the rule change removing the limit on the maximum case length of 1.8 inches, therefor allowing the use of the higher power rifle cartridge that travel farther and at higher velocities than the currently allowed rifle cartridges for the following reasons.
 1. I am a deer hunter and satisfied with the current selection of rifle cartridges to harvest deer with.
 2. I am a target shooter with experience in high power rifles and know that these velocities are not needed to take down deer in Indiana.
 3. I live in rural Warrick Co across from Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife area and do not want high power rifles used that close to my home.
Comment Received 1/7/2015 10:00:11 AM

Commenter Name Michael Mong
City Hartford City **County** BLACKFORD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mikemong@indianaooxygen.com
Comments On this rule change everywhere it list comprehensive lifetime license it says before it's repeal. Is this saying they are going to take away everyone's lifetime hunting license? If so that is a terrible idea. I myself have a lifetime hunting licence and we are the ones that buy land build hunting cabins and take others hunting. We uphold the laws and do the right thing for the wildlife. We encourage youth hunters and take youth hunters hunting to get them evolved. We plant food plots for the wild game and try to manage the deer and turkeys. On the rifle change people will not be able to drive down a county road and be safe with people using high-powered rifles. In Indiana we have to many patch woods and fence rows that people hunt. I have a young son that i take hunting and i would not feel safe taking him out to hunt if this rule change happens. With that being said it will hurt the youth hunting in this state and all of the serious hunters. I work at a local bow shop and i have heard no one say they like this rule change. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN. We have something good going for Indiana hunting with the one buck rule and the release of turkeys through the state don't change a good thing. If anything we need to shorten the firearms season we are killing to many antlerless deer and if people go out and not see anything like this year the weekend warriors are going to give up hunting and the licence purchases are going to drop. Thanks for listening i hope you listen to the serious hunters and do the right thing for us and Indiana.
Comment Received 1/7/2015 10:18:23 AM

Commenter Name Alan Racine
City Evansville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address akracine@gmail.com
Comments If the amendment to Section 312 IAC 9-3-3 changes the type of weapons that can be used to hunt deer to include high-powered rifles of size .357 and larger, then I am against this rule change. The terrain found in most deer area of Indiana is hilly and wooded and using high powered rifles allows hunters to try to make shots at deer that a much farther away where the shooter might not be able to see a hunter wearing hunter orange near, in line with, or beyond the deer at which he is shooting.
Comment Received 1/7/2015 11:27:03 AM

Commenter Name Robert Eugene Gardner II
City Hartford City **County** BLACKFORD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address rob@titanelectricco.com
Comments Two major points I hope someone is considering before amending 2 of these laws;
 1. Regarding the addition of "before its repeal" to all the listings of comprehensive lifetime license uses;
 a. 312 IAC 9-3-2 Sec. 2. - (e)(1)(H) & (I) - (f)(1)(I) & (J) - (g)(1)(H) & (I) - (h)(1)(H) & (I) - (j)(1)(F) & (G) - (k)(1)(I) & (J)
 i. Is this a precursor to revoking, annulling, or recalling the existing lifetime license holders of their investment of their lifetime licenses?

ii. If so, know that the lifetime license holders are Indiana's stewards of hunting? They are the ones who buy land to hunt on, have and get the private land permission to hunt, invite and persuade others to hunt and are in large the group that invests the most to all industries of hunting.

2. Regarding the change - Fire a bullet of (three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357)) - changed to - (two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243)) of an inch diameter or larger.

a. 312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3. - (d)(4)(A)

i. As a citizen I have to question the logic of all laws. I'm not finding the logic behind passing a law that allows the use of a high powered rifle to hunt white tailed deer in our state of Indiana. They were prohibited from use in the past for various reasons. Let's ask ourselves what circumstances have improved that warrant the use of a high powered rifle in the state of Indiana to harvest a white tailed deer. I know that there are other seasons that allow the use of high powered rifles, but firearm deer hunters out number all other hunting populous.

1. Population of the land has not declined. DANGEROUS

2. There are more roads now. I would rather take my chance of hitting a deer on these roads than being hit by a high powered rifle slug while driving. DANGEROUS

3. Being a hunter myself having hunted on state owned and some of the most productive private ground in the state (Lagrange Co., Switzerland Co., etc...) there have been a few instances during the firearm season I did not feel safe while in the field in both hunting scenarios (private/public). High powered rifles will only make this MORE DANGEROUS.

4. The deer populations in the regions of the state I frequent - (east central, south eastern, north central, and south central) seem to be on the decline. Putting high power rifles in the hands of the Indiana white tail deer hunters during our 15 day fire arms season is not only DANGEROUS but threatens the population of our white tailed deer.

Comment Received 1/7/2015 12:24:47 PM

Commenter Name David A Martin

City LaPorte **County** LAPORTE **State** IN

E-Mail Address fortheloveofdave@gmail.com

Comments Why would there be an increase on the size limit for walleye caught in the Kankakee River. Indiana uses the river for drainage only. It is being stocked by Illinois and they have a 14in minimum size limit. The Kankakee River is very shallow and most of the people who fish it are bank fishermen. Why would you want to decrease the number of fish that a bank fisherman can keep. Why not make the minimum 20in? A 20in size limit would affect a majority if fishermen in Indiana. I would almost bet that the people who are for this have a lot more access to good walleye fishing than the average guy fishing from the bank.

Comment Received 1/7/2015 12:49:50 PM

Commenter Name Gerard Matheis

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address gtmatheis@att.net

Comments I am unfavorable to allowing the use of high power rifles during the deer season. There are already enough options out there to harvest deer. Allowing the use of HP rifles would increase poaching, shooting from roads, and risky shooting. There isn't enough open terrain throughout Indiana where HP rifles make sense. I vote NO!

Comment Received 1/7/2015 3:10:24 PM

Commenter Name gary russell

City rougemont **County** Out of State **State** N C

E-Mail Address russellgutterco@aol.com

Comments Dear Sirs, I am in a group of hunters that comes to your wonderful state each deer season to pursue your trophy whitetail deer. Being from North Carolina, where most anything goes, with regards to firearm season, i can attest to the fact that opening your state to rifles of any cartridge will decimate the deer population! We hardly have the trophy deer that your state has to offer, and it is the belief of a growing number of hunters that the long range capabilities of todays rifle is mostly to blame. When hunting Indiana, we see numerous deer that are out of range of a muzzleloading firearm or slug gun, and we just watch and hope they move closer! With a 30-06 or 300 winchester, most people will be shooting at deer farther away than with a slug gun or muzzleloader. Hence, more big deer killed and less trophy deer to pass on their genes! I predict a lot of trophy deer killed the first year of a rifle season, with dwindling numbers in subsequent years. Think about the amount of non-resident dollars that will be lost when the numbers start to drop off and the word spreads of the irreparable harm done to the deer herd! With the threat to deer herds from diseases becoming greater and greater, we are of the opinion that opening the season to flat shooting rifles will probably lessen the desire of non-resident hunters to visit your beautiful state. Almost all of the true trophy deer hunting states still have a slug or muzzleloader only law. Contrary to popular opinion, a modern muzzleloader is not the same as a centerfire rifle. Thank You very much for taking the time to read my post! Gary Russell

Comment Received 1/7/2015 4:15:21 PM

Commenter Name Benjamin baxter
City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address baxterpartyof3@yahoo.com
Comments I think high powered rifles should not b aloud for deer hunting in indiana we've Ben dooming it with shotguns for years think the deer population is down from what I've seen and heard and having more range would impact it greatly and two I would not feel safe knowing someone could shoot that far. I also think they r giving out to many doe tags deer numbers r already way down from what I c. I also think firearms season should b shortened
Comment Received 1/7/2015 6:04:23 PM

Commenter Name Harold Qualkenbush
City Orleans **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) n/a
E-Mail Address harold.qualkenbush@yahoo.com
Comments I fully agree with the proposed change. I believe this proposed change will be good for all hunters and non-hunter alike. I commend the Commission for taking this bold step. I believe there may be some controversy, at first, among hunters and non-hunters but, I believe in the long run deer hunting will prove to be no more dangerous than it is under the current set of rules.

v/r Harold Qualkenbush

Comment Received 1/7/2015 6:23:23 PM

Commenter Name Jason Adams
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jarccgop@gmail.com
Comments Please allow rifle cartridges .243 or larger for deer hunting.
Comment Received 1/7/2015 9:10:46 PM

Commenter Name Kirk Demaree
City Atlanta **County** HAMILTON **State** IN
E-Mail Address kirk_demaree@hotmail.com
Comments I support the addition of high powered rifles for deer hunting statewide, with one suggested change. Move minimum bullet diameter to .223 (5.56mm) to allow use of AR platform rifles, as opposed to the proposed .243 limit. The .223 has more kinetic energy at 100 yards than a .410 shotgun slug (currently legal) does at the muzzle. This caliber has been used in many southern states for decades for deer hunting, and with HP bullets, does fine with deer hunting.
Comment Received 1/7/2015 10:14:56 PM

Commenter Name Bradley Beach
City Greens Fork **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address beach12261@aol.com
Comments I have two objections to the rule changes in section 312 IAC 9-3-3.
 1) You are supposed to protect our natural resources (wildlife), the changes suggested will only increase wounded animals by tempting hunters to take longer shots than they are capable making accurately. Most hunters will not take the time or the expense to train themselves for shots over 200 yards.
 2) Public safety. Yes modern muzzle loaders and shotguns have much further trajectories than their predessors but there limits are still much less than what these changes are opening up. As written someone could (and they will) use a military grade 50 caliber rifle capable of shooting accurately at 1 mile and possible bullet travel of 5 miles.
 The bottom line is 90% of all deer kills will be shots under 100 yards anyway why make the rules that anything goes. This is Indiana not Montana 500 to 1000 yard shots are not necessary.
Comment Received 1/8/2015 1:30:26 AM

Commenter Name david tonneller
City decatur **County** ADAMS **State** indiana
E-Mail Address david.tonneller@yahoo.com
Comments I am speaking for many adams county hunters that the doe gun season needs removed for a few years,our herd is way off. I hunt a real good area in adams county and hardly seen a deer. There was no die off from sickness it is caused by all the does and button bucks being killed off year after year. If hunters want a doe make em take one with a bow. I hunted shot gun muzzle loader and had a doe tag and let the few does i seen walk not enough to take one. only seen 2 bucks the whole time. The new gun proposal is not going to help either plus isnt safe here in our county flat land, lots of houses in rural areas its asking for trouble . To many people dont understand the power f these guns someone or things will get shot !
 Please think about these things when you make the rules this year,like i said im speaking for a bunch of hunters in my county !! Thanks
Comment Received 1/8/2015 11:28:26 AM

Commenter Name D Day
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dday@dnr.in.gov

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| <p>Comments This is a test.</p> <p>Comment Received 1/8/2015 1:49:34 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Daniel Kemper City Moores Hill County DEARBORN State IN E-Mail Address kempertool@gmail.com Comments I would like to suggest that the current rifle rules we have stay in place and not allow all rifles above .243 caliber. My biggest fear is not so much the large magnums, such as .300 Win mag and 7mm Rem mag, but the inexperienced hunters that may be out there with AR-15 and SKS semi autos in 7.62 x 39. I currently use one of the Indiana legal wildcat rounds (1.625 long) and find it to be all the cartridge that is needed. I also have a .270 Win, but I would prefer to leave it in the safe. Thank you. Comment Received 1/8/2015 2:14:24 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Dane Maltzberger City Veedersburg County FOUNTAIN State IN E-Mail Address labncroft@hughes.net Comments As a seasoned deer hunter, I can see no merit to allowing the reduction of bullet size down to .243. The density of hunters at times requires very good judgement even with a Thompson Center Muzzle loader, of which I can consistently down a deer at 100 yards. Allowing smaller caliber rounds traveling at higher speeds with less bullet drop spells a recipe for disaster in the woodland in my area. And stop to think about our urban zone hunting....let us use some common sence. Changing caliber does not make up for poor hunter marksmanship, this is all I view this change is doing. Safety first Comment Received 1/8/2015 4:04:52 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name John Roy City Columbia City County WHITLEY State Indiana E-Mail Address jsroy@kconline.com Comments I would prefer to NOT to have rifles used for deer hunting in the state of Indiana. If it were to pass, I think there should be some restrictions, such as a "hunter education" type certificate that a hunter must earn through a State ran training course. Our State is too populated to allow people to deer hunt with high power rifles. Thanks for your time. John. Comment Received 1/8/2015 4:24:34 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name David Hewitt City Florence County SWITZERLAND State Indiana E-Mail Address d.hewitt@risingsunpolice.net Comments Dear NRC Members-I am asking that the State not allow the introduction of any additional high powered rifle calibers into the firearm's season. As an avid and long time deer hunter, I see no value in making additional calibers legal. Between modern muzzle loaders, rifled barrel shotguns and "cowboy" cartridge rifles, there are more than enough firearm choices for our gun hunters. My primary concern is that it appears the deer herd in my area is declining and has been for 3 years now. With the addition of long distance calibers, even more deer will be taken from the localized herds. I would also like to voice my concern about the over harvest of antlerless deer. In my opinion, Switzerland County needs to be dropped from an 8 county back to a 4. I would also like to see our firearms season taken out of the peak rut and eliminate the late season antlerless all together. Comment Received 1/8/2015 4:43:46 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Sam Wallace City Lexington County SCOTT State Indiana E-Mail Address s.wallace41@yahoo.com Comments I am opposed to allowing high powered rifles to deer hunt. We do not have terrain where this is necessary or even makes sense. Why bother calling them 'hunting regulations' when do not honor or respect hunters or the hunted. This is only about population control so you should have a gun only, doe only season in May where it will have the most effect and leave the hunting season to the hunters. Comment Received 1/8/2015 4:45:59 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Harley Winkleblack City Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana E-Mail Address hwink3@gmail.com Comments The cartridges presently available, to Indiana hunters, are more than adequate to take deer. Do NOT change the existing requirements. Comment Received 1/8/2015 7:17:54 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Andrew Clind City Diasboro County DEARBORN State IN E-Mail Address acline@dnr.in.gov Comments I think the proposed rifle law is fine. Responsible handling of firearms are ultimately what defines how accidents happen. I believe there will be no more accidents happen with the proposed law than what there is now. Comment Received 1/8/2015 11:04:43 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Andrew Clind</p> |

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| <p>City Diasboro County DEARBORN State IN E-Mail Address acline@dnr.in.gov Comments I think the proposed rifle law is fine. Responsible handling of firearms are ultimately what defines how accidents happen. I believe there will be no more accidents happen with the proposed law than what there is now. Comment Received 1/8/2015 11:05:39 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Chris Wright City Monticello County CARROLL State Indiana Organization (optional) US Army Ret. E-Mail Address chris.wright220@gmail.com Comments I as an outdoorsman in the state of Indiana see no reason why high powered rifle should be allowed for use of deer hunting in this state. The equipment that is able to be used is perfectly capable of maintaining our herd. I also believe that firearms and muzzleloader need to be shortened and dates moved. To a different time other than peak mating season times. Our herd as a whole needs to substantialize itself after the decline in 2012 due to blue tongue. Please make the right decision and the correct moral decision and not buy into the political aspects. Comment Received 1/9/2015 1:38:44 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jonathon Gray City Markle County HUNTINGTON State Indiana E-Mail Address Jongray10@gmail.com Comments I do not think introducing high powered rifles for deer hunting season is a good idea. The topography of the land is to flat and residential areas are not spread out enough to ensure the safety of bystanders. Even if you hit your target, with a high powered rifle, it will pass through and may skip off the ground or rock and continue to carry for a longer distance than the shooter was expecting. With the technology of today's shotguns and muzzleloaders, I see no need to have to shoot any further than those will reach currently. This comes down to a safety issue, you may be the safest hunter out there, but accidents happen and why increase the risk of them when it's not needed. Comment Received 1/9/2015 6:28:51 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Chris Meyer City Holland County PIKE State IN E-Mail Address chrispaula101@gmail.com Comments Myself and all my co-workers and friends and neighbors are fine with using high powered rifles for deer hunting. Should have been legal from the get go. Comment Received 1/9/2015 7:42:27 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Dave Owens City Carmel County HAMILTON State IN E-Mail Address kowens@indy.rr.com Comments I fully support the proposed changes to allow rifles to be used in deer hunting. Thank you all for taking this progressive step! Comment Received 1/9/2015 10:08:50 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name roger wise City Bloomfield County GREENE State Indiana Organization (optional) resident E-Mail Address festusthagan@outlook.com Comments .Have no problem with the .243 Win. cartridge case if 'legal', frangible or expanding projectile only. Same as above applies to 30/30 Win., and 45/70 GOV., SAAMI cartridge case length and neck only.. We already have wildcat 1.16 'Hoosier' cartridges in use, that are capable of 2800 fps. and more. I am mostly concerned about heavier, high velocity projectiles ricochets going very far, in who knows what direction. This concern also applies to the 'smokeless' ML users. Comment Received 1/9/2015 10:55:41 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name John Shafer City Yorktown County DELAWARE State Indiana E-Mail Address moon3932@comcast.net Comments Put me down as for 312 IAC 9-3-3 ,allowing high-powered rifles. I am also for 312 IAC 9-3-15, Comment Received 1/9/2015 1:30:02 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Greg Yazel City Greenburg County DECATUR State Indiana Organization (optional) N/A E-Mail Address gyazel@starenv.net</p> |

Comments Absolutely NO to all centerfire rifles!!! I don't care what the safety studies show, in the wide open, flat farm ground where I live, farm, and hunt, safety IS an issue. It has been proven by the already declining deer herd that they are not NEEDED as a management tool. There is no reason for it in this state. NO, NO, NO.....

Comment Received 1/9/2015 1:41:22 PM

Commenter Name Robert Sunderman

City Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address blsunderman@twc.com

Comments regarding high power rifle proposal: As sportsman I feel that we all need to stick together regardless of what legal means we choose to harvest a deer with since their are plenty antis against us. However as an avid deer hunter, sportsman & landowner, I do not think or believe that allowing these high powered rifle calibers is necessary or in the best interest of Indiana's Deer Herd, or safety of hunters and the general public. Southern Indiana where I live, hunt and own property is a very hilly region with small open areas and heavily populated with people, homes & buildings. As for myself, family and friends, the majority of deer that we have harvested have been taken at 50-60 yards or less. Myself and other hunters in my circle are totally against this proposal. One of the main reasons that I am so against this proposal is that it will be promoting WANTON WASTE! We feel that many deer will be shot at with these high powered rifles at 200 to 400 yards or more in certain open field shots and many hunters (not sportsman) will not think that they connected a shot with the deer and will not even walk the great distance to check for blood or sign. Many inexperienced hunters will even have trouble finding the exact location where the deer was standing/running when the shot was made before the deer or more bolted off. This is just the Wanton Waste aspect of this proposal, now for thee SAFETY aspect: Indiana, especially Southern Indiana is just to populated with people & homes in close proximity to have hundreds or thousands of people throwing lead across these possible ranges. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal, lets respect and build our deer herd and keep Indiana SAFE! The last thing our sport needs is an increase in hunting accidents, buildings shot, etc.... I do wonder if this is just another way for the DNR to continue to decrease our deer herd to the point of pre 1970's? If this is approved, I ask myself, "what next" hand grenades? Thanks again and please make the right decision to protect us and our beautiful deer herd that God so wonderfully created. Lets not ruin it. Thank you, Bob Sunderman, Jasper, Indiana 47546 (812) 639-0756

Comment Received 1/9/2015 8:11:42 PM

Commenter Name Troy withers

City Eaton **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tdubb35@comcast.net

Comments I think if center fire rifles are going to be added that a max size needs to be in place, to prevent 50 bmg and similar cartridges from being used.

Comment Received 1/10/2015 9:15:23 AM

Commenter Name joseph wuerth

City lanesville **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address joseph.w.wuerth@gmail.com

Comments As a land owner and hunter I object to allowing high powered rifles for use with deer hunting because of the danger from shots that go too far. I take great comfort in knowing that a shotgun drops to the ground in about 200 yards. I have never had a problem getting a couple of deer each year with shot gun. I live in a long creek bottom and can see hunters taking long shots in my direction from a half mile away.

Comment Received 1/10/2015 9:15:40 AM

Commenter Name Pat Wuerth

City lanesville **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address patwuerth@gmail.com

Comments Regarding 312 IAC 9-3-3, my preference is that additional rifles not be allowed. The article that I read in the REMC magazine regarding this proposal stated that hunting accidents are no greater in the states that allow these, it is something that I find difficult to believe. Harrison county and Floyd are more densely populated than other close by counties, and it would seem that the chances for such accidents would be greater due to that density.

Just an FYI, I also wonder why there is even a muzzle load season since the new guns are accurate at a greater distance than a shotgun. So what is the reason that season even exists separately any more?

Comment Received 1/10/2015 10:24:02 AM

Commenter Name Greg DeWitt

City Elizabeth **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Springslake@wildblue.net

Comments I am very much in favor of allowing rifles larger than .243 to hunt deer. I believe this would allow more hunters to hunt and reduce the amount of lost wounded deer from slugs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg DeWitt

Comment Received 1/10/2015 10:33:42 AM

Commenter Name Craig Bierl

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| <p>City La porte County LAPORTE State Indiana E-Mail Address CBierl@comcast.net Comments Opposed to the 243 and above rifle rules. The current package is safe and efficient without introducing longer range firearms. We also need to reduce the doe and buck quotas. Comment Received 1/10/2015 11:08:38 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Adam Zabel City Seymour County JACKSON State Indiana E-Mail Address azabel221@gmail.com Comments It makes perfect sense to update and clarify some of the language in this rule. Hats off to the men and women who worked on the editing to make sure nothing was missed. Now to comment on probably the most impacting change to this section of rules, the change to the minimum bullet diameter and exclusion of a maximum case length for deer hunting. Although I personally disagree with the minimum bullet diameter of .243" and would like to see it changed to .224" if this is a compromise needed for legislators to agree on passing this rule, I am all for it. Please approve this rule! Everyone I know also supports this change. This rule will make deer hunting more economical for many. This will also contribute to a growing Indiana economy as the increased weapon and ammunition choices drive consumers to local retailers to spend their money. Comment Received 1/10/2015 11:36:00 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jeff Fischer City Paoli County ORANGE State IN E-Mail Address fischersoil@gmail.com Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 I am a deer hunter and I worry about the legalization of long range rifles to hunt deer. Growing up in rural Fountain county and now living in rural Orange County, I have experienced to very different landscapes while hunting. The problem with both locations is rural residential populations. Many of the long range rifles that would be legal are capable of effective ranges of 500+ yards. There are few areas to hunt that a hunter would easily be 500 yards from another hunter. Some hunters will be smart and only shoot down towards the ground or with ample bank beyond their target, but others will not hesitate at taking a shot at a deer on top of a hill where the bullet could potentially travel 1000-1500 yards. My second point is the number of deer taken and the size of the herd. I do not know the exact numbers so my case here is more based on what I have heard around the community. Here in Orange County there are increasing numbers of natural predators. I do not know if actual deer taken complement the quotas necessary for a healthy deer population but I have heard of many hunters not seeing the deer that they used to. With that said, I question the necessity of making hunting deer easier with longer range equipment. Comment Received 1/10/2015 11:43:13 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jeremy Kolaks City Bedford County LAWRENCE State IN E-Mail Address jeremy_kolaks@hotmail.com Comments I support the use of rifles for hunting in Indiana. In my opinion they are just as safe as short range arrangements (most hunting accidents happen at short range). Hunters will mostly take as many risky shots with short-range rifles as they do with long-range rifles. I believe that all hunters perceive the furthest extent of their firearm's range and know when they are pushing it. Comment Received 1/10/2015 1:45:51 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name David Dodd City Sullivan County SULLIVAN State Indiana E-Mail Address dadodd1@frontier.com Comments Greetings, Please don't allow the use of high powered rifles to be used to hunt deer. Our county is to populated to allow this. It would be to dangerous for home owners and farmers. Passing this could be an extremely deadly mistake! Sincerely, Dave Dodd Comment Received 1/10/2015 5:49:25 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Bryan Smith City Bloomfield County GREENE State Indiana E-Mail Address besmith00@comcast.net Comments I fully support the use of any center fire rifle for deer hunting in the State of Indiana. It's about time. Thank you for your time. Comment Received 1/11/2015 7:49:03 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name William R. Stocke, Jr. City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana E-Mail Address bill.stocke@comcast.net Comments I fully support the implementation of firearms deer hunting with rifles capable of firing projectiles of .243 caliber and larger. Please adopt this change to the Indiana deer hunting regulations NOW. Thank you!</p> |

Comment Received 1/11/2015 10:14:24 AM

Commenter Name Steven McCue
City Hope County BARTHOLOMEW State IN
E-Mail Address family_dude@hotmail.com
Comments I am for the proposed rule changes.

It's hard to understand how two simple proposed rule changes could capture the imagination and create excitement among the Hoosier hunting and shooting communities, but the proposal to reduce projectile diameter and eliminate case length of deer-legal rifle cartridges has had that effect.

It has been well documented that Government regulations have the effect of picking winners and losers in the market place, and squelches free commerce. Indiana currently suffers from over regulation with regard to deer-legal cartridges. These rule changes reduce unnecessary regulation, and will stimulate the economy as hunters purchase new firearms.

The concerns expressed with the proposal, such as increased frequency of errant shots, more wounded deer, and wholesale deer slaughter are unfounded, in my opinion. Powerful, long range firearms are already legal, and very infrequently result in accidents and damage.

In closing, as a Hoosier that occasionally deer hunts, I support the proposed rule changes and congratulate the DNR for this proposal that will increase the freedom of Hoosiers.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 11:53:52 AM

Commenter Name Ross Gardner
City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana
E-Mail Address rossman.7@hotmail.com

Comments I am an avid hunter, fisherman, trapper, and outdoorsman, and am completely for the rifle proposal. Kentucky, Northern Michigan, and Pennsylvania all have legalized high powered rifles for use on deer without any increase in hunting related accidents. These states have similiar terrain and landscape to Indiana. If there was no increase in hunting related accidents there it is safe to say there will be none here. Modern muzzleloaders which are legal for deer hunting are fully capable of inflicting serious bodily harm if not death at over 500 yds. Guns do not cause accidents irresponsible people behind them do. This is why I do think that hunting with high powered rifles on public ground should remain prohibited. There are too many unexperienced hunters on them. However there is no reason to continue limiting hunters across the state to inferior cartridges. A high powered rifle in the right hands with the right ammunition is a more effective, more ethical and a more humane weapon for hunting deer then any other gun currently in use. Even with lower deer herd numbers in 2012 and 2013, Indiana's deer population is still way to high and far beyond historic levels. Auto collisions with deer every year in Indiana amount to over 98 million in damages alone. They also account for millions more in crop damages. Allowing hunters with more options in their taking of deer seems like a no brainer for the State.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 4:02:02 PM

Commenter Name Philip D Deckard
City Bedford County LAWRENCE State Indiana
Organization (optional) Mr.
E-Mail Address hayes879@comcast.net

Comments License sales are down. Young people have no male at home to take them hunting. Less hunters, less sales. Fixed costs up. You have to raise license fees or somehow sell more license. Increased fees cause poaching. BUT, if my granddaughter is killed by a 308 from 600 yards away, you are going to have a problem. What the hell is wrong with you people? This is not the wide open west!!!!!!

Comment Received 1/11/2015 4:19:46 PM

Commenter Name Matthew Baer
City Bear Creek Road County BROWN State Indiana
E-Mail Address boyhowdie@att.net

Comments Concerning the recently publicized proposal to allow high-powered rifles for hunting deer, I strongly object, living adjacent to Yellowwood State Forest properties and having over 30 years' experience with nearby hunters. This change would put my family, home, and timber stand in a dangerously vulnerable position in case of misdirected shots. High-powered rifles are unnecessary for deer hunting and their range is much too long to be a safe firearm during deer season, when the surrounding state forest is heavily populated with hunters.

Thank you,
 Matthew Baer

Comment Received 1/11/2015 5:02:13 PM

Commenter Name Jo A. Olson
City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana
E-Mail Address jaoraa@sbcglobal.net

Comments NO to the use of high-powered firearms in hunting. Hunters using high-powered rifles place humans and

domestic animals at even greater risk than they already do when their firearms discharge onto private property and properties closed to hunting. It is also unethical for humans to hunt wild animals with firearms in general, as the animal has less chance to evade. High-powered firearms make it even more unethical.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 5:47:50 PM

Commenter Name Dave Beatty

City Paoli County ORANGE State Indiana

E-Mail Address bigdave8084@hotmail.com

Comments I have reviewed and agree with LSA # 14-453.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 6:27:45 PM

Commenter Name Larry Sweet

City Terre Haute County VIGO State IN

E-Mail Address stubnt@gmail.com

Comments Speaking as a landowner, livestock owner, and hunter, I am strongly opposed to removing the maximum case length of 1.8 on rifle cartridges for deer hunting.

Allowing high-powered rifles, 30-06, 7mm mag, 375 mag, 50 BMG, etc is much too dangerous for Indiana. There is no reason, given the length of seasons, legal equipment already available, and essentially no bag limits, that anybody needs a more powerful and longer-ranged weapon than we have now. Traditionally, Indiana was archery and shotgun-only because much of the state is densely populated. This has not changed. There are more hunters out and less ground to hunt than there's ever been.

I know all the arguments, ie; those rifles are used for coyote hunting (they are but there are not 200,000 coyote hunters out on opening day), modern muzzleloaders can shoot 500 yards just like a HP rifle (bullshit - I have several, they won't), the deer herd needs to be reduced more - this is the biggest lie of all - I didn't see as many deer in the last 5 seasons as I did in 1 week of hunting 10 years ago. Every year it's less. I'm still finding dead deer from blue-tounge - are you counting those ?.

If you keep up the 8-doe limit, it won't matter if you legalize hunting with 50 cal machine guns, grenades, poison, nets, or whatever - nobody's gonna fire a shot because there won't be any deer left except on game ranches or zoos.

Perhaps that is your intent.

I have a grandson that I'd like to someday take deer hunting and give him a reasonable chance at taking a deer. The way it's going finding a deer track might be about all he can hope for.

I don't know what interests are behind this rule change, but I don't see how any serious hunter, landowner, farmer, or wildlife lover could be in favor of it. There is too much to lose and ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to gain from it's passage.

Please do not change the law.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 8:52:34 PM

Commenter Name Jack Woods

City Bedford County LAWRENCE State Indiana

E-Mail Address jackwoodsaw@gmail.com

Comments I support the use of high powered rifles, we can use them to hunt other game but not deer. I hope we can use them in 2015 deer season.

Thanks Jack Woods

Comment Received 1/11/2015 10:21:38 PM

Commenter Name patty cotterman

City fort wayne County ALLEN State Indiana

E-Mail Address buellharley5@hotmail.com

Comments I agree with the proposed new rifle caliber proposal.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 10:36:23 PM

Commenter Name Daniel Stauffer

City Wabash County WABASH State Indiana

E-Mail Address dcstauff@hotmail.com

Comments I feel strongly that the portion of this rule in regards to opening up the usage of rifles of .243 or larger for deer hunting in Indiana should not be allowed. Allowing the high powered rifles to be used in Indiana will cause deer hunting to become less safe due to the distance of how far these bullets will travel behind the targeted game if the hunter was to miss. There are lots of hunters out there that take unsafe shots the way it is now, just think if they could shoot bullets that could go for over a mile. The majority of Indiana terrain is made up of small woodlots and smaller farm fields so the higher powered rifles are not needed, it is not like we are hunting in western terrain that presents a very difficult challenge to get anywhere close to the deer. It brings me to my final point that it brings into question the ethics of giving the deer of Indiana a fair chance. With the majority of the state being small woodlots and farm fields we don't have a need for the high powered rifles

to allow us to shoot longer distances.

We don't need to conform to what other states allow just to make hunters from out of state happy. One of the reasons I love hunting deer in Indiana is that we have stuck to our guns and have not allowed high powered rifles to be used. Let's keep the Indiana hunting woods safer and give the deer a fighting chance and not allow the high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting.

Comment Received 1/11/2015 11:06:36 PM

Commenter Name CHARLES HILL

City INDIANAPOLIS **County** MARION **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address bhill@thehillco.com

Comments The change to legalize "HIGH" powered rifles 312 IAC 9-3-3 D4 should be absolutely TURNED DOWN. A brick home is no longer safe from errant shots from calibers such as a 7MM. We listen to some voices of the few to endanger the many here people!!! A .308 is still considered by many some of our military's finest SNIPER RIFLE ammunition with confirmed kills over 1000 yards. Let us think about that in the hands of an excited deer hunter.

VOTE NO !

Comment Received 1/12/2015 8:12:26 AM

Commenter Name CHARLES HILL

City INDIANAPOLIS **County** MARION **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address bhill@thehillco.com

Comments The change to legalize "HIGH" powered rifles 312 IAC 9-3-3 D4 should be absolutely TURNED DOWN. A brick home is no longer safe from errant shots from calibers such as a 7MM. We listen to some voices of the few to endanger the many here people!!! A .308 is still considered by many some of our military's finest SNIPER RIFLE ammunition with confirmed kills over 1000 yards. Let us think about that in the hands of an excited deer hunter.

VOTE NO !

Comment Received 1/12/2015 8:13:24 AM

Commenter Name John Benjamin Lewis

City Brownstown **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address benathtube@gmail.com

Comments I fully support (LSA #14-453) 312 IAC 9, specifically, the amendment to allow centerfire firearm cartridges of .243" in caliber and larger. I would love to see this pass as an extra measure to control the population of deer herds, as well as allow younger hunters or otherwise those that are recoil sensitive to hunt. I think this will be a safe measure, as these arms are more accurate by nature, thus reducing or minimizing the chances of an errant shot, resulting in an injured animal or person. Please pass this amendment.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 8:47:16 AM

Commenter Name Charlie Hill III

City bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ford@thehillco.com

Comments (312 IAC 9-3-3 D4)

I do not think we should allow these High Powered Rifles at all what so ever. This would be a mistake considering there are hunting accidents every year and your wanting to put a high powered rifle in someone's hand for deer hunting that could not be paying attention and shot through someone's house a injure or kill someone. I am a very big deer hunter here in Indiana and I strongly believe that if you need a High Powered Rifle to kill a deer that you shouldn't be hunting!! I can tell you one thing and that is a brick building can not stop a 7mm magnum bullet or a .308 bullet at all what so ever. I personally think that if Indiana passes this law that it would be the BIGGEST mistake that our state has ever done.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 9:19:50 AM

Commenter Name Jeffery Scholl

City Mitchell **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address indystone@yahoo.com

Comments I'm for allowing rifles (rifle ammo) to be used in deer hunting.

I believe a good approach would be allowing some of the more popular smaller caliber rifles like the .30-30 the first year and then

evaluate. Indiana needs to attract more hunters and I believe this change will go a long way in doing that. Let's get more people out there in the woods.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 9:20:12 AM

Commenter Name Andrew Enloe

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address akenloe@gmail.com

Comments I do not support the use of high power rifles during deer season. Especially on draw hunts - the hunter density in these areas does not lend itself to the use of these rifles. Indiana deer hunting seems to be concentrated which could lend itself to accidents. I have three children that I take deer hunting each fall - I could think of nothing in this world worse than taking one of them hunting and have them injured or killed because another hunter took a bad shot at a deer allowing the slug to travel hundreds of yards beyond the intended target. I will definitely think twice before I take my children deer hunting

if this rule is changed. It is simply not worth taking a chance. I own a high powered rifle and grew up hunting with it in Missouri - if the rule is changed I will not be hunting with my rifle. The firearms that are currently allowed for deer hunting are more than adequate for taking a deer.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 9:28:23 AM

Commenter Name Scott Mills

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address stmills23@gmail.com

Comments My comment is in support of the proposed changes allowing additional rifle calibers for deer hunting. To support this,

More caliber are have been allowed in recent years without an increase in safety incidents. Recent changes allowing rifles in counties in southern Wisconsin with terrain and population similar to Indiana and no increase in safety incidents, provide relevant examples.

Hunter safety education adequately trains hunters in safe shooting practices which apply to any caliber including an emphasis on understanding what is behind the target.

The option to hunt with a gun or caliber of choice may increase participation in an important activity whose numbers are declining.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 9:35:35 AM

Commenter Name John Duell

City Solsberry **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address a2jnduell@gmail.com

Comments I do not support the increase in rifles for deer hunting. I have hunted deer since 1986 with muzzle loader, bow and pistols. This is about safety first. Indiana does not have mountains like the other states that allow center fire rifles. This will also allow military style firearms, semi, auto, large 30 round clips to be used, such as AK-47, M-16, M-14 AR'S and big 50 cal. snipe guns to be used. We don't need a spray of bullets to hunt deer. We don't need 30-06, 308, 7mm mag flying for miles on missed shots. A hunter could try to shoot a deer with a head or neck shot on a ridge top, or rise and miss. That bullet is going, going, and going maybe for miles. We don't need to have to buy body armor to go hunting. I might if you change this law.

Does the state need to have a reduced deer herd? Push for this and have the insurance companies buy antlerless permits and give them to their clients that hunt. The state does not lose revenue on permits, the cause for the over deer population is addressed and hunter's get some relief of the cost to hunt. The Insurance Co. gets less costly claims. \$24 or \$15 per permit is far less than a \$1000 to a totaled car claim. Do this every other year as a trial program, just like the state park's hunting that happens now.

Back to the rifles, if somebody should have that 30-30 of their great grandfathers have any need to kill a deer with it, tell them to go to Kentucky or Michigan and hunt for deer. We killed off all the deer the last time when rifles were allowed to be hunted with. Let's not repeat that again. The safety of the million in Indiana over two people that request this change is not worth it.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 11:28:58 AM

Commenter Name Michael Ohlmann

City Louisville **County** Out of State **State** KY

Organization (optional) lifetime lic. #912

E-Mail Address mctxdy@gmail.com

Comments I am wholeheartedly in favor of the proposed changes to IAC 9-3-4 governing season dates and bag limits for deer hunting. Specifically those redefining rifles.

My reasons to approve are as follows:

For better safety:

1. Rifles are considered by most to be far more accurate than shotguns and therefore are more carefully aimed and generally fired once whereas shotguns many of which are semi autos or pumps are many times fired until empty often at running deer whereby the shooter has much less knowledge as to what lies beyond the target animal.

For better conservation:

1. Firing a more accurate and efficient weapon can have a positive effect on the number of deer recovered by hunters, thus reducing the number of wounded animals that might otherwise die and be unaccounted for in the harvest reports.

For better trophy management:

1. Short range shotguns often dictate that a hunter accept the smaller buck that comes within range reducing the overall numbers of immature bucks that might otherwise grow to trophy size. Whereas rifles might instill additional confidence in the hunter that at a future time a larger buck may present itself within range and encourage the hunter to pass on the immature animal.

2. Selective shooting is further enhanced by scopes which are much more common on rifles than shotguns which are often multipurpose weapons. A scope can better afford a hunter the ability to quickly identify a spike or button buck that might otherwise be mistaken as a doe.

For more hunter participation:

1. Many young people, women and persons of small stature and or those with neck and shoulder injuries or aging effects find a shotguns recoil to be prohibitive whereas a rifle with a smaller lighter projectile can be tolerated.
2. Youth and many persons new to large game hunting often have a strong concern about their ability to effectively and efficiently harvest a deer. Practice and precision marksmanship builds confidence. These issues are much better addressed with a more accurate and recoil friendly weapon.

In closing I agree with the reasonings of the IDNR on this rule and I dissuade the arguments against that I find to believe based upon self serving motives and or unfounded propaganda.

Sincerely Mike Ohlmann

Comment Received 1/12/2015 11:47:19 AM

Commenter Name Garrett Atkins

City Ferdinand **County** DUBOIS **State** IN

E-Mail Address garrett_atkins@yahoo.com

Comments I disagree with the proposed rule change to allow the use of high powered rifles. We had a record harvest in 2012, clearly we are getting the job done without them. The high antlerless quotas are already lowering the deer number more than I would like to see. I can only imagine what will happen, if this is passed.

I also think it is in poor judgment to allow them to be used during the current rifle season. The deer are already more vulnerable due to the rut. If they are going to be allowed I would like to see them used later in the season. I do not understand what Indiana is trying to do the deer population. I wish you all would consider shortening the gun season, and instituting an earn a buck system or an antler restriction for hunters over the age of 18. I realize not everyone would agree with this. However it could really improve the quality of the deer. I'm sure those that wouldn't agree would change their minds in a couple years, whenever they started seeing the results of it.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 12:30:13 PM

Commenter Name Tom Zimmer

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address pasqua248@aol.com

Comments Please do not let all rifles be legal. People have enough safe choices now if they want to hunt with a rifle and these have plenty of power if that's what someone wants to use. By letting anything go that is what will happen and anyone with a rifle now things he is a hunter... Very scary proposal. Please do the right thing and keep the law the way it is now. Thank you!

Comment Received 1/12/2015 2:54:34 PM

Commenter Name David Mood

City North Salem **County** HENDRICKS **State** IN

E-Mail Address dmood@harrell-fish.com

Comments For safety reasons I am opposed to the expansion of high power rifle use in deer hunting. If the goal is to increase the number of deer harvested, please extend the shotgun season time frame.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 3:19:46 PM

Commenter Name George Hegeman

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address hegemang@indiana.edu

Comments I own an orchard and woodlot north of Bloomington (Wash. twp. 10) of 62 acres. I work in the woods at TSI and invasive plant control and harvest plated and wild fruit and nuts in the fall. Even dressed head to toe in Blaze orange gear I am fearful of stray shots from hunters. I allow hunters on my land and shoot a muzzle-loader myself (at paper targets). As I work on my land during hunting season I hear from all sides shots from powerful rifles and shotguns including what sound like rapid-fire semi-automatic firearms. I have seen bullet holes from stray shots in my shed and bee hives. More powerful firearms and ammunition are not needed to hunt deer and varmints. I urge that you not adopt any rule, such as this, that permits more long-range and powerful weapons and ammunition in legal hunts.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 3:32:36 PM

Commenter Name Chris Wagner

City Greenfield **County** HANCOCK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cwagner233@aol.com

Comments Rifle hunting would be good, humane, and better control our herdd. Less day leaving wounded.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 3:50:24 PM

Commenter Name troy adams

City boonville **County** WARRICK **State** IN

E-Mail Address tba897@gmail.com

Comments I am "for" or a "Yes" vote for the rifle rule change. I believe it will help in the recovery of shot and wounded animals. Many will fall in their tracks.

Comment Received 1/12/2015 6:31:39 PM

Commenter Name Chris Ehlers
City Carmel County HAMILTON State IN
E-Mail Address cmehlers1975@yahoo.com
Comments Amendment 312 IAC 9-3-3 D4 to allow "HIGH" POWERED RIFLES for deer hunting. A brick home will not stop some of the calibers they have listed like a 7MM Magnum or the .308 sniper round our US military uses in the M4 sniper rifle. What are these people thinking. In the hands of a trained sniper these rifles are deadly over 1000 yards, what will November be like in Indiana when excited deer hunters see a big buck with these guns? Indiana is not the proper state to allow for these types of rifles.
Comment Received 1/13/2015 8:13:49 AM

Commenter Name Charles R Radcliff
City Mitchell County LAWRENCE State Indiana
E-Mail Address cradcliff6@gmail.com
Comments I would like to see this rule passed. The use of high powered rifles in the state of Indiana is just as safe as the use of the current legal firearms. There are a lot of people that don't understand trajectories or ballistics that will tell you that you can shoot to far with these weapons, I will tell you that that is false. If you set the sights of a 30-06 dead on at 100 yards it will be in the dirt at 500. The argument about firing one in the air or over the top of a hill is a fear that has no founding. What is more dangerous falling out of the sky a 180 gr bullet or an arrow with a broad head. They both will fall at the same speed, since they have exhausted there power. Take a bullet and drop it on your bare feet, it will not even break the skin, now take a broad head arrow and do the same, you are going to pin your foot to the floor. There are a lot of unfounded concerns by people who have no idea about firearms. It all comes down to safety, whether you are hunting with a bow or a howitzer. It is currently legal to hunt with a pistol chambered in a high power cartridge such as the 30-06 or the .308, most of these pistols have a barrel length of 14 inches. You are only loosing about 150-200 fps off of the velocity of the round, therefore these handguns can shoot as far as any rifle in the hands of someone who knows how to shoot, yet they are not responsible for more accidents. Look at Pennsylvania, they have approx. 20 hunters per square mile and they use high powered rifles, yet they are not killing each other. Today's slugs and muzzleloaders have the capability of firing at velocities matching that of high powered rifles, yet they didn't increase they number of accidents. In reality, most hunting accidents occur when someone falls out of a treestand due to not have the proper safety equipment, not because of shootings. You will always have some accidents, this is unavoidable, but safety is key. They more people who understand how to safely handle a firearm the safer the woods are during hunting season. So instead of limiting our freedoms, lets look into adding firearm safety to school curriculums in this state. Lets teach children at a young age how to be responsible when handling a firearm. In reality that is the only way to reduce accidents, you cant reduce the number of car wrecks by limiting what kind of car you can drive, you have to teach people how to handle them safely. In short, pass this amendment. It makes sense and will increase revenue from hunting licenses in this state. As sportsmen we will all benefit.
Comment Received 1/13/2015 9:16:41 AM

Commenter Name Nick Atherton
City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN
E-Mail Address naastick@gmail.com
Comments I feel that the passing of this rule would cause a threat to the safety of my family. I live on the west side of Evansville and often see hunters walking along the road with guns during hunting season. The thought of a high powered round fired by one of these men close to my home and possible hitting a family member or pet in my yard or home from far away is frightening.
Comment Received 1/13/2015 9:16:45 AM

Commenter Name John M. Davis
City Noblesville County HAMILTON State IN
Organization (optional) self
E-Mail Address johndavis7993@aol.com
Comments > I own two .30-06 rifles, and a .30-30 Winchester, but think that this proposal is a terrible idea to allow them for deer hunting in Indiana. The maximum range of the .30-06 is 3450 yards (1.96 miles). If the hunter misses his deer (which is often the case), the range of these bullets virtually guarantees that the bullet will continue its trajectory beyond the property being hunted. I am not sure why these regs are being proposed, but as a responsible gun owner I oppose them and urge you to oppose them as well.
>
> John M. Davis
Comment Received 1/13/2015 11:59:35 AM

Commenter Name Debra Miller
City Cromwell County NOBLE State Indiana
E-Mail Address dsmiller091851@yahoo.com
Comments I find it appalling that persons find it acceptable to kill these animals out of season, causing a slow and horrible death by starvation for their young, waiting for their parents to return, by the hours, by the days...I find it difficult to envision a scenario regarding any of the mentioned species in which the removal (death) must be so immediate. The use of the word "nuisance" pretty much says it all. We've lived on our 600 acres with all of these species for 30 years, without threat to health or safety. When we felt that relocation was appropriate, we did so, and do so, at the ethically appropriate time. "Convenience" did not trump what was morally correct. Please do not allow such atrocities to occur to those co-inhabitants

of the planet who "have no voice, have no choice".

Comment Received 1/13/2015 2:30:51 PM

Commenter Name Matt Senesac

City Freetown **County** BROWN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address msenesac28@aol.com

Comments I do not wish for the language to be changed for casing length requirements and bullet diameter. High power rifles should not be legal for the regular deer firearms season. The current firearms regulations should not be changed. We are not northern Michigan or Kentucky and should not have high powered rifles legal for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 1/13/2015 3:04:04 PM

Commenter Name David L Cruser

City Fortville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address d.cruser@comcast.net

Comments I'm totally opposed . There is not enough open areas for such a law in Indiana. Who will be responsible for a bullet going thru someone's home or vehicle from a mile away, or a rabbit or bird hunter 300 yards away in another field. What about farmers livestock a good distance away. Please consider the safety of all parties.

Comment Received 1/13/2015 3:26:20 PM

Commenter Name Mark Cottom

City Hobart **County** LAKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address sgtmccusmc@yahoo.com

Comments I do not support the rifle cartridge change. I don't think that any possible herd management benefit outweighs the risks to hunters and the public. Yes, high powered rifles are already allowed for other things, like hunting coyotes and target shooting, but 1) with target shooting, if a shooter goes out on their back 40 and a round goes into someone else's house, they're criminally liable for not shooting in an area properly backstopped, and that happens a few times a year, so, how many deer hunters are going to make sure every shot they take is properly backstopped? They may be hunting in a flat area where that's not even possible. 2) With target shooting or hunting coyotes, when are there so many individuals in the woods that could potentially shoot eachother? Deer season brings out far more people into the woods at the same time than any of those other activities. Currently, where I hunt, opening morning already sounds like a warzone, but I'm not too worried. If, in the future, those are high powered rifles being fired all around me, you can bet I'm going to be worried and that will take away from the peaceful relaxation and enjoyment I feel being out there. Like I said, I don't think there are any benefits that outweigh the potential risks. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Comment Received 1/13/2015 4:00:00 PM

Commenter Name Dave Zilai

City Lowell **County** LAKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address davezilai@gmail.com

Comments 312IAC9-3-2 Sec. 2 q (2), I understand the reasoning for the implementation of "electronic check-in procedure" is cost. Cost of printed "logs" and metal tags. Just as the "State" has been reducing human resources at my specific property I frequent, change is apparent. My "comment" pertaining to this proposed change is that you are taking away my "trophy". A harvested animal, to some, may be their trophy. To me, that metal seal is forever. Deer size, buck/doe doesn't matter. Meat is consumed, the tag is still on my wall. Damn the computer age. Deer hunter for 30+ yrs and have all the metal tags. Hope I can find something to do with the confirmation number.

I live in the heavily populated area of Lake County. Private land is virtually non-existent. The vast majority of hunters in this region must rely on "State properties" to fulfill our desires/privilege. 312IAC9-3-3 Sec d 4 A, .243 caliber and larger. High powered rifles DO have their place in Indiana. However, they do not belong at LaSalle, Willow Slough, Jasper/Pulaski and other "State owned" properties. With the reduction of manpower at these facilities, (Willow Slough e.g.), there is no way to properly manage hunters per area. Willow Slough is a vast property. 9956 acres, less 1800 acres of water leaving 8156 acres of "dry" land for hunting. Not all of this land is suitable for deer hunting, for there are several acres for upland bird hunting, dog training, rifle range and tillable "crops". This greatly reduces the property available for deer hunting. Now, take this adjusted acreage and translate it into the "deer woods". Not all of the woods are suitable for deer hunting. The acreage shrinks . Experienced hunters will know where their best chances are for taking a deer. Those hunters, I'm not worried about. I know where they'll be. I'm worried about the younger, inexperienced hunters who watched a show on TV, bought a license, purchased a legal weapon and has no idea what's going on around him. I was self taught. I have have no problem with younger people wanting to learn what I love and depend on for supplementing a food source. When I started firearms hunting, a long shot was 100 yds. Two things I'd like to get across, high powered rifles do not belong on DNR properties and, I'd like to come home to my wife after deer hunting every night, whether successful or not.

Comment Received 1/13/2015 8:44:38 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Skocilich

City Plymouth **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Freefire762@yahoo.com

Comments I am completely against changing the deer firearms rules for the 2015-16 season. The rules and seasons in

place now are more than adequate and new rifle rules will only result in more wounded game, more accidents and a less bountiful game harvest for Hoosiers. I urge you to leave the current firearms rule in place.

Comment Received 1/13/2015 11:20:10 PM

Commenter Name troy Hoffman

City winamac **County** PULASKI **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tdh5716@gmail.com

Comments The intense doe harvest in our area has had dramatic effect in our deer herd in our are . While being allowed 8 bonus does plus bowhunting does and a muzzleloader doe you could shoot 1q does in our county of Pulaski. I farm quite a few acres of row crops and do a lot of huntin . In the last couple years our herd had dropped off dramatically and yet some of the hunters still try filling every tag they can and it's really hurting the feet hunting. I think the bonus tags need lowered substantially and do away with the last doe gun season. I also think depredation permits need addressed because basically anybody who wants them gets them. We have few area farmers that get them just to shoot feet for the fun of it and then just leave them waste . if they need deer shot so bad make them allow public hunting on there ground so this resource of deer go to good cause for food. I think this would slow them permits up and then shooting bucks in the summer is ridiculous for depredation permits. Our season is to long look at our neighboring states seasons and they have better quality deer hunting and good deer herd. Almost 6 weeks of gun hunting is unheltd of. As a land owner boy it gets agreavating before season is over. Please consider these suggestions before we wipe our deer herd out and loose hunters especially the youth.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 6:52:46 AM

Commenter Name randal devault

City reynolds **County** WHITE **State** in

E-Mail Address rockydigsit@yahoo.com

Comments As an avid deer hunter I urge you NOT to allow high powered rifles for deer.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 7:21:08 AM

Commenter Name randal devault

City reynolds **County** WHITE **State** in

E-Mail Address rockydigsit@yahoo.com

Comments As a landowner I will not allow anyone to use a high powered rifle on my property, for safety and liability concerns.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 8:12:04 AM

Commenter Name Jon Oswald

City Bemen **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) FLWG

E-Mail Address jgoswald@msn.com

Comments Restricting the bag limit for Bluegill is wrong. Bluegill are our most prolific fish and will lead to over populations and stunting. The department already has the ability to limit bag limits on specific lakes. This will lead to throwing back injured bluegills which will be wanted waste. Also the COs have better things to do than count bluegills.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 9:54:25 AM

Commenter Name Jon Oswald

City Bremen **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) AASR

E-Mail Address jgoswald@msn.com

Comments An individual must not take or possess a walleye north of State Road 26 unless it is at least sixteen (16) inches long is wrong. If the Department wishes to regulate walleye on specific lakes, then ok. It is difficult to catch 14 inch let alone 16 inch. This is not fair to we anglers who pay a lot of money to fish. The Department should do its job properly and not randomly draw a line versus targeting specific lakes.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 10:07:53 AM

Commenter Name Jon Oswald

City Bremen **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) FLWG

E-Mail Address jgoswald@msn.com

Comments I am an avid deer hunter and all other hunters I have talked to are strongly opposed to changing the rifle and bullet requirements for deer hunting. This change would jeopardize not only other hunters but joggers, homeowners and autos driving near hunting areas; not to mention the increased numbers of wounded deer from those who think they can make long shots. If the department wishes to change this on public hunting property then they can and would assume the responsibility. What is the reason for this change when most hunter strongly oppose it?

Comment Received 1/14/2015 10:20:57 AM

Commenter Name Becky L Kehrberg

City Ellettsville **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bkehrber@indiana.edu

Comments I assume this is the correct law I want to voice my opinion on. I read where hunters may now be using weapons that shoot longer distances. NO! When living in the country, I found several slugs in my siding. I cannot imagine what the

situation could have been like had the shots being fired traveled longer distances. Not needed! What they use now is good enough!!!

Comment Received 1/14/2015 10:56:07 AM

Commenter Name Marsha Lucy

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** in

E-Mail Address mlucy@csbnetbank.com

Comments Please don't allow high powered rifles for hunting deer. The states of KY, MI, & PA are hilly, Indiana is not. It is flat and there are way more populated areas. I am surrounded by woods and deer, and am not in favor of being homebound during hunting season. the hunters have enough options for weapons to hunt with.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 11:05:18 AM

Commenter Name Leslie Fyffe

City Ellettsville **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lwfyffe@bluemarble.net

Comments About myself: I am a landowner/hunter. I have hunted varmits and predators with centerfire rifles for close to 40 years. I currently hunt deer with legal equipment that is effective to 200 yards. I am a 1 shot - 1 kill hunter that would be as safe with a centerfire rifle for deer hunting as I am with my current equipment. I would like to use rifles for the accuracy, cost, effectiveness, and to be able to reload. I am not so sure about the "other guy". Too often, I hear what can only be someone with a semi-auto or pump shotgun empty their weapon at running deer. I can't imagine those "hunters" in the woods with an AR-10 loaded with 20 rounds of .308. At the least, this proposal needs limits on magazine capacity (5 rds) and caliber. We don't need a .50 BMG to kill whitetail deer.

Comment Received 1/14/2015 4:02:06 PM

Commenter Name Jerry Cartright

City Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** Ind

E-Mail Address rodbuster9@aol.com

Comments I support the use of high power rifles for deer hunting

Comment Received 1/14/2015 9:01:48 PM

Commenter Name Rhett Steele

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address rhett.steele@navy.mil

Comments State zones for rifle hunting, if the rule passes.

Comment Received 1/15/2015 9:20:15 AM

Commenter Name will bell

City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jordanb311@icloud.com

Comments Yes, let's please allow more rifle rounds for deer season. BUT, and this is important, there still needs to be some limitation.

I DO NOT want to see folks out there super magnum cartridges up to .338 lapua, or .50 bmg just because they can. And if they can, someone will. Open it up to common and old school cartridges. Stuff like 30-30, 45-70, .243, .308. Fine. I would say a reasonable cap would be .30-06. Anything hotter than that is just trouble brewing.

Personally, I want to hunt with 45-70. Its big, its slow, its powerful, and its got limited range. I know others who want to hunt with their grand dad's garand or something. Fine. Let's do that, but keep the morons with rifles meant for african game or anti-armor military purposes out of our woods please.

Comment Received 1/15/2015 10:28:01 AM

Commenter Name Douglas K. Dieterly

City Lakeville **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address doug.dieterly@btlaw.com

Comments I wish to comment on the proposal which would allow the use of high powered rifles to be used during deer hunting season. While I am a big game hunter that routinely hunts with high powered rifles around the world, and which deer hunts with bow, shotgun, and muzzle loading rifles in Indiana, I am strongly AGAINST this proposal for the following reasons:

1) I live in the country and my property is surrounded and is immediately next to woods and farm land which are routinely packed with hunters in the fall. It is not at all uncommon to hear semi-automatic shotguns such as Remington 1100 12 ga. shotguns firing multiple rounds at deer by people hunting next to my property. Since it is not necessary to take rapid fire shots at deer that are being responsibly hunted within a reasonable and clear range, this tells me that hunters are routinely taking wild and irresponsible shots at animals that should never be taken. (I have actually heard hunters rip off 5 shots and then yell to a buddy, "missed him." I have no doubt that those same hunters would have no hesitation taking irresponsible shots if allowed to use high powered rifles -- including shots across farm fields at animals 100 to 300 yards away which would be taken in the direction of my home and property. Stray shots would easily enter my property and could strike my members of my family which includes my wife, children, and grandchildren which regularly recreate on my property throughout the year. (I own 94 acres.) It is already so bad that we dare not go outside during hunting season w/o wearing

hunter orange. On one occasion I had a 12 ga. slug hit a tree which at the time I happened to be standing next to. The slug struck approx. 1 foot over my head. The problem would be exacerbated if those hunting on property adjacent to mine were allowed to use high powered rifles. 2) As a deer hunter myself, I know that there is absolutely no problem with one's ability to kill deer with existing lawful weapons such as bow, crossbows, shotguns, and muzzle loaders, by hunters that have properly developed their skills and spend the time in the field necessary to do so. Indeed, I have in my lifetime shot dozens of deer, virtually all of which were within 20 to 40 yards when killed, and for which there was no need for a high powered rifle. This includes multiple record book class deer. Each year hunting an average of perhaps 12 - 15 days throughout October and November, I have literally 30 to 50 deer that pass within 15 to 30 yards of my stands. There is simply no need for high powered rifles to take deer in a state that has Indiana's deer population. 3) Indiana is way too flat to allow high powered rifle hunting. A stray shot can easily travel up to a mile and poses a extreme risk. (I see one argument for the proposed rule change is that deer hunting accidents typically do not involve people being shot by stray bullets. Praise God! But that is because Indiana does not allow weapons that can shoot long ranges. More importantly are the number of shots taken that don't hit their targets. I hear comments from many hunters each year talking about deer they shot at but missed, and again that happens by their own description because the shots are being taken at running animals or animals at which they do not have clear shots. This poses an extreme risk when such shots are taken by high powered rifles in a state as flat as Indiana. Again, I was nearly killed myself by a slug that struck a tree next to which I was standing. 3) To safely use high powered rifles requires extensive time on a shooting range to learn the shooting characteristics of such weapons at multiple distances. I can tell you by the time I spend on ranges, and in the field, that very very few hunters spend adequate time on ranges. The thought of having someone shooting a high powered rifle at long ranges where the shooter has not taken the time or spent the money to learn the characteristics of the gun on a range is scary to say the least. . . and there are very very few private pieces of property that are long or sufficiently equipped to allow someone to practice with such weapons. Thank you for considering my comments.

Comment Received 1/15/2015 11:22:27 AM

Commenter Name carla tribble

City warren County HUNTINGTON State indiana

E-Mail Address mtribble2@gmail.com

Comments I would like to see the rules changed to allow rifles of .243 cal and larger, for the taking of deer.

Comment Received 1/15/2015 11:22:42 AM

Commenter Name Ellen Siffin

City Bloomington County MONROE State IN

E-Mail Address tetraconch@hotmail.com

Comments Definatly opposed to this sort of gun and ammo. A llowing this sort of gun and ammo it would no longer be safe to keep your kids and grandkids not to mention yourself other relatives and friends out of the yard and woods during deer hunting season and in your own house, as these guns and ammo can penetratehouses and cars. Is enjoying nature only supposed to be for those carrying guns? If hunters feel the need to kill from such a distance then let them have a permit during the deer reduction in the state parks when the public is not allowed in the park. Then the only human risk is to other hunters.

There is so much violence in America and in the world, why allow permitted even more deadly weapons in our woods which is often people's back yards in Southern Indiana. Sincerely, Ellen Siffin

Comment Received 1/15/2015 12:59:03 PM

Commenter Name WILLIAM W KEMP

City OSGOOD County RIPLEY State IN

E-Mail Address WILLIAMWKEMP@COMCAST.NET

Comments WHY IS THERE NO ALLOWANCE FOR PAPER CARTRIDGE RIFLES?? I HAVE A SHARPES 54 CAL. IT LOADS FROM THE BREECH. BUT IT IS NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS YOUR IN LINE RIFLES. IT IS MORE ARCHAIC HUNTING WEAPON. YOUR RULE SHOULD READ GUNS OR REPLICAS MANUFACTURED BEFORE 1870, OR SUM OTHER DATE! THE IN LINES ARE JUST CASE LESS AMMO!!!!

Comment Received 1/15/2015 1:29:59 PM

Commenter Name Steve Simmerman

City Battle Ground, IN County WHITE State IN

E-Mail Address simmersteve@gmail.com

Comments Regarding allowing the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana, i am opposed to such a law. i have deer hunted for over 40 years in Indiana and see no need for this change in rules. The flat farm ground of Indiana and yet the high population density makes this a substantial safety risk, given the distances that high powered rifles carry. I have used high powered rifles numerous times on big game hunts out West and in Canada, and those are the proper places for a high powered rifle use, not in Indiana. I deer hunt my own home property of about 200 acres in north Central Indiana, and have numerous deer hunters on adjacent property all around me, every year. i can't imagine having that many people in that near proximity hunting around me with high powered rifles. A rule allowing high powered rifle use for deer hunting in Indiana will be unsafe, is not needed, and demonstrates a lack of good judgement and logical sense, on the part of Indiana lawmakers, and NRC and DNR officials.

Comment Received 1/15/2015 3:36:04 PM

Commenter Name Michael T Dixon

City Dyer County LAKE State Indiana

E-Mail Address mdntxprs@gmail.com

Comments Need to bring back life time license. And prorated for children as they grow to certain ages.

Also I would love to see some "bow hunting only" public property.

I'm new to Indiana and moved here from Maryland. I had over 13,000 ac. of public land just for bow hunting. I have my lifetime license from NC. I would have bought one from Maryland but they didn't offer it either nor for both. my boys born there.

Thanks for your time. I hope I enjoy the outdoors here as much as I have in other states

Comment Received 1/16/2015 1:31:26 AM

Commenter Name Brad Beer

City Hudson County STEUBEN State IN

E-Mail Address bradbeer.cornerstone@gmail.com

Comments Using a rifle to hunt deer sounds like a great idea for people that understand the power of that rifle. In my opinion there are to many people hunting that do not understand how powerful and how far a round from a .243 will travel. Where my family and I hunt in Steuben county there are a lot of small woodland areas in every section that have been cut apart and farmed in between. My fear is that someone will be hunting in one of these small (10 acre) wood plots with a rifle and shoot at a deer walking on the outside edge not considering that the round may either miss or travel through the deer and go into the wood plot 200 yards away where more people are hunting. Therefore I would not feel safe hunting, or being in my home, or even driving down the road. There are many people that come to hunt here that I do not think have the right attitude about safety in the first place, and giving them the opportunity to use a .243 would add to the harm they could cause.

My family and I hunt coyotes, we run them with dogs and shoot them with shotguns. We all have rifles that we could use, but the fact is that there are only a couple of places in the county that we feel comfortable using a rifle. If the conditions are not right, we put the rifle away and use the shotgun. This makes for a more challenging hunt anyhow. There are just to many houses and people driving on the county roads to take a chance on pulling a rifle trigger to kill an animal and possibly have that round kill someone or go through a home.

If this rule goes through I think that there will be more people that feel the way I do and will not hunt because they will not feel safe in areas with such chopped up wood land. If every person had a square mile of timberland to hunt in this would be a different story, but the fact is that Indiana does not have very many areas like that.

Thank you for your time and I am sure that the DNR will understand that even though people go through a "hunter education" course they do not always think of the safety when there is a live animal in front of them.

Sincerely,

Brad Beer

Comment Received 1/16/2015 6:45:17 AM

Commenter Name Ben Hartwig

City Lamar County SPENCER State IN

E-Mail Address tankota99@hotmail.com

Comments Thank you for taking comments on this matter. I know that there is quite a bit of debate about this around the state, which I find quite shocking. I used to live in a state (KY) that allowed high powered rifles for hunting. Not only were there not anymore accidents, there were NOT a bunch of wounded deer running around (I have heard this wounded deer argument as an argument against allowing rifles). I would think that if we didn't want wounded deer we would drop bow season.

Further, it really makes no sense that I can legally shoot a coyote with a .50 BMG or .338 Lapua, but can't go deer hunting with a .30-30 or a .45-70. This is illogical especially when a .458 SOCOM is legal and virtually a ballistic twin to the .45-70 which is currently illegal.

Additionally, I personally know people that are hunting with the wildcat cartridge, the 358 Hoosier (or 358 Grant), which hits harder than many high powered rifles and does it at great distance. I personally know one guy that cleanly killed a deer at 600 yards with this round. This is a legal round, but .30-30 is not. This is terribly illogical. This round pushes a 225 gr bullet at about 2800 fps. This is better performance than a .308.

Thank you for proposing this change as I am certainly for it.

Ben Hartwig

Lamar, IN

Comment Received 1/16/2015 7:42:42 AM

Commenter Name Scot W. Willis

City Merom County SULLIVAN State IN

E-Mail Address swillis@hepn.com

Comments Indiana Should Never Allow High Powered Rifles for Whitetail Deer Hunting. This would create an unsafe situation in most areas of the state due to residential population densities. IN citizens safety should be top priority for IN Gov and INDNR policies. (c) (6) Rifle (d) (4) should state rifle cartridge of 0.357 in dia or Larger ONLY. (d)(2)(c) Handgun should state handgun cartridge of 0.357 in dia or Larger ONLY for legal use for hunting whitetailed deer in the state of Indiana. NO HIGH POWERED RIFLES ALLOWED FOR WHITETAILED DEER HUNTING IN INDIANA.

Sincerely,
Scot W. Willis

Comment Received 1/16/2015 8:37:42 AM

Commenter Name ray wilson

City corydon **County** HARRISON **State** indiana

E-Mail Address indianahrw@hughes.net

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3... bullets from high-powered rifles can travel for a mile, putting innocent victims at risk when the hunter misses his target.

312 IAC 9-3-12.. Killing anything is a solemn occasion & should not be taken lightly or for fun. This rule change will only serve those who would use coyotes for target practice.

312 IAC 9-3-15.. I have seen ads on Craigslist from people who say they like to kill animals & are looking for places to do so... They say they don't want the meat & you can have it if you want. This rule change would only serve to satisfy their blood lust.

Comment Received 1/16/2015 8:40:39 AM

Commenter Name DANNY STULTS

City CORYDON **County** HARRISON **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address MROCDANNY@YAHOO.COM

Comments IM REQUESTING THAT IF RIFLE SEASON IS PUT IN PLACE THAT THERE IS A BULLET LIMIT PUT ON THEM , ALSO THINKS THERE NEEDS TO BE A SHELL LIMIT ON ALL HUNTING GUNS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT EXTENDATUBES OR EXTRA FULL MAGAZINES,

Comment Received 1/16/2015 10:52:53 AM

Commenter Name Joe Kelly

City Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address joekellybpd@gmail.com

Comments Changing the regulations on the rifle proposal is a great idea. Keep the forward progress moving.

Comment Received 1/16/2015 2:29:11 PM

Commenter Name mickey overbaugh

City Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** indiana

E-Mail Address lug_nutt@msn.com

Comments I disagree with changing rifle requirements for deer hunting and think they should remain as is.

Comment Received 1/16/2015 2:43:12 PM

Commenter Name Thomas W. Post

City Demotte **County** JASPER **State** IN

E-Mail Address stpost@netnitco.net

Comments I am not in favor of changes to 312 IAC 9-3-3 which would allow for highpowered rifles to be used for deer hunting. I am concerned for safety in the urban/rural mix of ground in northern Indiana where the terrain is relatively flat and a missed shot can travel a long distance in proximity to homes and other buildings and roads.

Comment Received 1/16/2015 7:51:13 PM

Commenter Name Ed Sparks

City knox **County** STARKE **State** In

E-Mail Address esparks60@gmail.com

Comments I am in favor of the new rule change for the deer hunting rifles.

Comment Received 1/17/2015 2:21:10 PM

Commenter Name Rodney Hendrixson

City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rodhendrixson@yahoo.com

Comments Indiana is a state not suited for long range high power rifles. The northern half of the state is far too flat to make a safe shot. The southern half is too populated for safe shooting. At most this should be limited to medium range(200 yard rifles) like the 30-30, 35remington, 45-70, 444marlin. Rifles should be determined by range and ballistics versus case length and size.

Comment Received 1/17/2015 8:46:08 PM

Commenter Name Dianne Evans

City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address ark.woods@juno.com

Comments I'm opposed to the use of high-powered longer-range rifles. I live in a rural area and do not allow hunting on my

property but still have to deal with hunters attempting to trespass despite fences and many "No Trespassing" signs. These people have no regard for private property owners and would absolutely pose a safety hazard if legally allowed to fire guns over longer distances.

Comment Received 1/18/2015 3:32:52 PM

Commenter Name pat cira

City south bend **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** in

E-Mail Address pjcirra@yahoo.com

Comments i'm a deer hunter and i'm for the rule change that will allow us to use most calibers of rifles to hunt deer during firearm season.i strongly urge you to approve this part of the rule change

Comment Received 1/18/2015 3:41:17 PM

Commenter Name Francis Findley

City Boonville **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Frank@libertyassociate.com

Comments Allowing the use of rifles of 243 caliber or greater will greatly enhance the hunting experience in Indiana. Not only are these rifles powerful enough to humanely take deer, their inherent accuracy advantage and flatter trajectory vs. shotguns, muzzleloaders, and pistol caliber rifles will lead to better shot placement. This will result in fewer wounded animals. In addition the ability to use the same type of rifle as is commonly used in neighboring states may increase outdoor tourism from these states contributing to Indiana's economy. For these and the other reasons stated by the DNR these rule changes should be adopted.

Comment Received 1/18/2015 3:50:46 PM

Commenter Name A. Roth

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address 321roth@gmail.com

Comments DEER HUNTING WITH HIGH-POWERED RIFLES IN INDIANA

I've lived and deer hunted in Indiana since 1985. I've also hunted white tail deer with high-power rifles in Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Texas. As a 65-year old with years of hunting experience, I know that lots of hunters, in the excitement of having a deer appear in front of them (regardless of the distance), forget to ask "where else might my bullet go?" BEFORE pulling the trigger. Texas/Pennsylvania/Missouri geography and topography offer some forgiveness for that mistake. For Indiana, being more densely populated, and flatter in topography, that oversight has potentially lethal consequences.

I recall, while living in western Pennsylvania, an infant being accidentally killed in its crib, and the thought still sickens me. I've limited my deer hunting in Indiana to shooting from elevated blinds with a "357" for that very reason.

Let's be honest -- Indiana deer hunting is an exercise in pest control. DNR enlists participation in it by calling it a sport. The sport rewards participants with great outdoors activity, with lucky and/or skilled hunters getting some of the finest, organically-grown, hormone-free, and downright tasty meat available. In exchange, Indiana achieves herd management, leading to associated reductions in crop damage, deer-auto highway accidents, and urban deer damage. However, legalizing high-power rifles would lead to irresponsible hunters who don't appreciate (or understand) the killing power of such weapons, resulting in terrible consequences.

Rather than legalizing high power rifles, DNR should permit baiting. Baiting allows hunters to see more game, and get short-range shots. Short range shots result in: (a) hunters having the ability to be more selective in the particular animal being harvested, i.e., "manage the herd" (b) ensure humane kills by being better able to place the shot, (c) reduced crippled animals that run away to die a slow painful death, (d) shots not being taken at distant walking (or running) animals (resulting in fewer stray wild bullets flying around), and (e) encouraging archery hunting by improving archers' odds for success.

Purists oppose baiting for it not being "fair chase". They don't have to participate. However, DNR's responsibility is to manage the state's deer herd and ensure public safety. Baiting, not high power rifles, would accomplish that. Now, do you really want to improve deer hunting safety and herd management? Legalize baiting, but only beneath elevated shooting platforms.

Back to weapons. I'll acknowledge that I'm uneasy about the lethal range of currently legal muzzleloaders and shotguns. Muzzleloaders, which at one time were primitive weapons that were more challenging to shoot than shotguns loaded with slugs, have over the years developed into virtual high-power rifles by the advent of sabots, in-line ignition, smokeless powder, and scopes. Having separate Firearms and Muzzleloader seasons is a farce.

That being said, DNR's current listing of legal weapons is well-suited to Indiana's hunting conditions. Legalizing high power rifles would be a serious mistake.

Comment Received 1/18/2015 5:30:59 PM

Commenter Name Jeff LaMaster

City Scottsburg **County** SCOTT **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address 226gunman@excite.com

Comments I am not for allowing high powered rifles from .243 win. and up in the deer firearms season. Reason one is the lack of stress for hunter's education in this state. Hunters born after Dec. 31st. 1986 have to have hunter's education. If this measure passes I would like to see hunter's education expanded to include hunters born in 1960 and younger. Reason two is that there needs to be a cap on included calibers. There is no need to let calibers like 7mm Rem. Mag, 300 Win. Mag., and 338 Win. Mag. be included in the rule change. Reason three is that there needs to be a magazine capacity limit. I could go on and on, but my hope is that there will not be a "high powered rifle" season in Indiana.

Comment Received 1/18/2015 10:21:19 PM

Commenter Name Alice Hawkins

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address alicehawk@c-hawk.net

Comments Please understand that I am not against deer hunting. However, I do not believe allowing the use of high powered ammunition is necessary for usual hunting. Its range and power put citizens in danger. The only use I would support is culling deer in state parks when the parks are closed to the public.

Comment Received 1/19/2015 11:55:07 AM

Commenter Name Stamley Zawila

City Elmhurst **County** Out of State **State** Illinois

E-Mail Address szbox2136-util@yahoo.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting Sec 3 d(4)

Allowing high powered rifles would dramatically increase safety issues, especially in the area we hunt. There are few times that a high powered rifle's range is even available except in an open agricultural field. Most times other hunters, roads and homes would be well within the range of the high-powered rifles. The density of hunters is too high for safe use of the rifle. There game that the rifles are already legal to use, but in those seasons the density of hunters would be no where near what they are during firearms season.

Comment Received 1/19/2015 12:02:18 PM

Commenter Name Don Miller

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address dbmillerind@yahoo.com

Comments I do not agree with the proposed changes to allow high powered centerfire rifles of .243 and larger calibers to be used for deer hunting during any hunting season. I am against this proposal. Current firearms used are quite adequate for the deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 1/19/2015 1:32:31 PM

Commenter Name Gerard A. Jansen

City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address gaj55@att.net

Comments To whom it may concern,

I am offering my opinion in regards to allowing how high-power rifles as deer hunting weapons in the state of Indiana.

I cannot begin to tell you how much enjoyment our Indiana outdoor resources have brought to my family and to my friends including many of the patients I see in my office. For a good portion of the residents in our area of the state I would say hunting and fishing are integral parts of their lifestyle.

Not one person I've spoken with in my office or at social gatherings have suggested there is a need or do they have a desire for high power rifles in Indiana deer hunting regulations.

The individuals I've spoken with who actually hunt deer express genuine concern over safety issues. The comment I hear most is a hunter using a weapon designed for distant shooting in a close area will simply be dangerous.

I have access to number of properties for deer hunting. Three of those properties are less than 25 acres. One of the three would be considered urban deer hunting. Houses are within a mile in three directions. The other two properties have active hunting on three sides. The danger factor envisioned with the use of long range weapons to both home occupants as well as hunters on neighboring properties is not minimal or modest.

I have been hunting in North East Indiana the past 50 years. I've enjoyed recurve, compound and cross bows as well as shotguns, allowable low caliber rifles and muzzleloaders. I've harvested deer with all of these.

Our regulations currently allow a broad array of weapons that should excite anyone interested in legally and ethically taking a deer. Additional calibers of guns with more power are simply not necessary.

Please work against any effort to expand Indiana deer Hunting regulations to include high power rifles.

Sincerely,

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|---|
| <p>Dr. Gerard (Jerry)Jansen 406 Northshore Dr. Kendallville, IN. 46755 Comment Received 1/19/2015 2:08:49 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Bill Wright City Muncie County DELAWARE State Indiana E-Mail Address bwrigh02@hotmail.com Comments I oppose changing the use of equipment for deer hunting in Section 5, 312 IAC 9-3-3, subsection (d)(4). A rifle of pistol caliber is sufficient. I fear "high powered" rifles of .243 or greater will pose a safety risk and decimate the deer population. Comment Received 1/19/2015 2:47:07 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name mark bonifer City Indianapolis County MARION State IN E-Mail Address mbnd@comcast.net Comments I like having the option of deer hunting with .243 Comment Received 1/19/2015 6:30:46 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Josh Hasenour City jasper County DUBOIS State Indiana E-Mail Address jehasenour@yahoo.com Comments I would be somewhat OK with the new rifle rule if some of the other gun season rules. We need a sorter season 15 days for gun is to many. We need to shorten it to maybe 2 weekends Fri thru sun mabey mon. When it comes to rifles I think adding a few new ones would be ok but please don't get carried away and desemate our states deer population! Thank u Comment Received 1/19/2015 6:47:07 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name William G Mitchell Jr City Greenwood County JOHNSON State Indiana E-Mail Address wmittchelljr2@att.net Comments In regards to the use of higher power rifles in Indiana. I personally see no issue, with the use of pistols, the .358 Hoosier and muzzle loaders being able to shoot at a long distance, using a high power will bring in my opinion more Hunters to our woods and this will include more out of state hunters. Plus, the small gun business will be able to stock more rifles and a lower price people can afford. I hope the new rule does change, and we/I can now use our high powered rifles instead of them just sitting in our safes. Very Best, Bill Comment Received 1/19/2015 6:47:55 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Mike Beebe City Spencer County OWEN State Indiana E-Mail Address beebem97@yahoo.com Comments I have access to several hundred acres of private land to hunt. I always endeavor to make clean, ethical shots. The approval of centerfire rifle cartridges would help insure quick, clean kills all the while carrying lighter equipment. As a 52yr old male having undergone 3 back surgeries every ounce counts. The recoil of shotguns with slugs is brutal and muzzleloaders tend to be heavy and cumbersome. Also I have found the .44 mag and .357 mag calibers to be very ineffective which I am sure has resulted in an increase in wounded and not found deer. Please approve the proposed changes for centerfire rifles. It will also bring much needed revenue to this state. Comment Received 1/19/2015 6:50:46 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name william City coal city County OWEN State Indiana E-Mail Address billybart1975@gmail.com Comments Past the rifle rule...other state been doing it for years...get rid of them shoulder pounding shot guns..and there is wild cat round that shoot like a HPR. .If u can afford one..now a poor man's budget can have a quality rifle to hunt with..or already have laying around. .beside u can use HPR to kill coyotes so why not deer...thanks Comment Received 1/19/2015 6:53:08 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name james challman City Greenwood County JOHNSON State indiana E-Mail Address jimchallman@gmail.com Comments I'm for adding all calibers that can humanly take game. Please consider this a yes vote for the proposed rule change. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:01:24 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Michael Love</p> |

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|---|
| <p>City Nashville County BROWN State Indiana E-Mail Address Sellmearat@gmail.com Comments I think the use of high-powered rifles for deer hunting is a positive thing. Other states of comparable population densities that allow rifle hunting display no greater percentages of injuries and or death resulting from accidental or stray bullet impacts. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:03:30 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Keith Gajownik City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana E-Mail Address gajownik@prodigy.net Comments I'm a proponent for the NRC rule changes governing rifle cartridge case length changes and the weapon the cartridge is fired from, ie high powered rifles. In short, I feel the rule change will help myself and fellow sportsman harvest deer more effectively and humanely. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:13:16 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Keith Jones City Speedway County MARION State Indiana E-Mail Address kjones366@yahoo.com Comments I've never understood the sense of allowing rifle calibers...like .308...in pistols for deer hunting, but traditional medium range calibers like .35 Remington and .30-30 in rifles are prohibited as dangerous. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:14:36 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Earnest S. NEEDHAM City INDIANAPOLIS County MARION State Indiana E-Mail Address NEEDHAMSRULE@SBCGLOBAL.NET Comments I believe that the time has come for rifles to be legitimized here in Indiana. They are legal to use for hunting smaller game, so it has never made sense to prohibit using them for deer hunting...Especially on private land. Muzzle loading rifles have effectively become 3-400 yard rifles. The same could be said for Shotguns with rifled barrels and premium slugs. They have become accurate out to 250 yards. Please, let us take that last step. Make Rifles legal, for hunting deer. I believe that the superior accuracy will make Hunters more efficient . Thank You for your consideration. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:19:32 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jim St.Charles City Arcadia County HAMILTON State Indiana E-Mail Address stcharles.jim@gmail.com Comments I am commenting on the rule proposal regarding permissible deer hunting rifle calibers. I hunt in central and southern Indiana. In the south I am hunting in the Clark county area and adjoining counties in the Hoosier National Forest. In my opinion, my success is limited by the fact that I normally hunt with 12 gauge shotgun with slugs. My range of ethical shots are limited by the permissible calibers be they .44 magnum rifle or shotgun calibers. Hunting in southern IN is physically hard with long treks up steep hills and to be limited to sub 100 yard ethical shots is simply wrong. The safety issues are minimal with higher caliber rifles due to the topography. In central IN the safety issues are mitigated by the fact that the majority of shots are taken from an elevated position (tree stands) even though the terrain is much flatter. Let's move IN into line with other Midwestern states. It is the right decision. Thank you Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:20:35 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Nathan Hoffman City Magnet County PERRY State Indiana E-Mail Address parkerbow1971@yahoo.com Comments I am against the HPR proposal in Indiana. We do not need them because we already have plenty of opportunity to use other weapons. Using HPR's would effect the dynamics of the hunting experience in Indiana and I truly believe it is a safety issue. Please do not allow this to pass. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:35:27 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name W Lindauer City Eckerty County CRAWFORD State Indiana Organization (optional) Select... E-Mail Address wjakel@wildblue.net Comments I SUPPORT the proposal to legalize rifles .243" and larger for deer hunting in Indiana. It should have been done a long,long time ago. Thank You. Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:45:19 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Dennis Howe City Tell City County PERRY State In Organization (optional) RC&D Fish & Wildlife</p> |

E-Mail Address dwhowe@psci.net
Comments Legalize deer hunting rifles .243 and larger for the 2015 deer season , people were against crossbows before they were legal , it doesn't make sense u can hunt almost anything in indiana with a center fire rifle except deer , this is the 21 century and were living in the stone age yet Thanks
Comment Received 1/19/2015 7:47:13 PM

Commenter Name John K Haendiges
City Ramsey **County** HARRISON **State** IN
E-Mail Address khaendiges@gmail.com
Comments I support the inclusion of high powered rifles for hunting here, other states have included them for decades, it's about time that we did.
Comment Received 1/19/2015 8:02:16 PM

Commenter Name Janet Bulcherell
City Elberfeld **County** WARRICK **State** IN
E-Mail Address Jabu2@netzero.com
Comments I have safety concerns about adding high powered rifles to deer hunting. Public lands adjoin my 40 acre wolds and safety would definitely be a concern as I have horses in an adjoining pasture, and grandchildren traversing my 40 acre woods. DNR needs to take this safety issue into careful consideration before enacting. Sure, I would enjoy hunting with a high powered rifle, but I wouldn't because it wouldn't be safe for my neighbors or those hunting on the adjoining public lands. I don't think all hunters would decide in favor of safety for others. So to put it in a nutshell, I'm not in favor!
Comment Received 1/19/2015 8:30:50 PM

Commenter Name Michael Brandow
City Bargersville **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address mike_brandow@hotmail.com
Comments Coming from western N.Y., a state that recently allowed rifle use during the firearms deer season, I have not seen an increased hazard or threat to the safety of those in and around the woods. In fact, I believe there's a greater emphasis placed on shot placement with the rifle as opposed to the quantity of shots made with pumps and semi automatic shotguns. I welcome the opportunity to expand my hunting enjoyment with a rifle next fall.
Comment Received 1/19/2015 8:47:54 PM

Commenter Name Ted McClintic
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tmccclintic@comcast.net
Comments We are in favor of allowing rifles as a legal weapon in the deer season. We own and/or lease 640 acres in Orange County and harvest 10+ deer per year on the property. Rifles are inherently more accurate by design, easier to load and are not more or less dangerous than any other firearm. We will have more young/female hunters on our property if given the chance to use rifles.
Comment Received 1/19/2015 8:55:06 PM

Commenter Name Joe Culbertson
City Russiaville **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address jdculb@hotmail.com
Comments I really think that the cartridge case length be expanded to include other cartridges. I do not feel that change would greatly effect much, other than the people that have capitalized on specialty guns and ammo that is out of reach of the normal household. With modern muzzleloaders, they also have the reach and power of a high power, so why not change it? I see that the overall number of does allowed by county needs reduced. Hardly any deer compared to years past, and I believe the state is allowing Overharvesting. Thanks, Joe Culbertson
Comment Received 1/19/2015 10:30:13 PM

Commenter Name Robin Scott
City New Castle **County** HENRY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address robinmcbridescott@yahoo.com
Comments " I oppose changing the use of equipment for deer hunting in Section 5, 312 IAC 9-3-3, subsection (d)(4). A rifle of pistol caliber is sufficient. I fear "high powered" rifles of .243 or greater will pose a safety risk and decimate Indiana's deer population.
Comment Received 1/20/2015 3:49:46 AM

Commenter Name Scott D. Arthur, Jr.
City Rosedale **County** VIGO **State** IN
E-Mail Address snparthur60@aol.com
Comments I support the changes in the use of rifles for deer, but would suggest that weapons with a detachable magazine be limited to ten round magazines. This would mimic the number of rounds most lever action PCR's will hold.
Comment Received 1/20/2015 5:04:15 AM

Commenter Name Roy Overshiner
City Salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Retired Law Enforcement
E-Mail Address roberts_257@yahoo.com

Comments I am for the new proposed deer rifle rule change. It will be a plus for the hunters and this state. We have needed this change for years. And it is time for it to happen. The rifles are a much more effective weapon to harvest deer with and are safer. Less shots will be fired due to the great sighting and effective bullets fired.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 5:16:40 AM

Commenter Name Bill Tucker
City Larwill **County** WHITLEY **State** In
E-Mail Address wiidbill@rexnet.net

Comments I don't want to see High-power rifles in Indiana, there is nor enough room for them, I shoot a TC 50 cal. muzzleloader and kill a buck at 192 yards, HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU WANT TO SHOOT, shotguns shoot 150 yards or more. WE DO NOT NEED HIGH POWER RIFLES IN INDIANA

Comment Received 1/20/2015 6:56:19 AM

Commenter Name Kenny B. Altom
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN
E-Mail Address kjaltom91@hotmail.com

Comments I think allowing high powered rifles in the entire state of Indiana would be a safety issue. In the hills of southern Indiana I think it would be fine. In the flat farmlands of central and nothern Indiana I just believe that it raises safety concerns with bullet travel. I don't know if it would make sense to go go county by county.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 7:01:10 AM

Commenter Name Steven K Reid, Sr
City Argos **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana (IN)
Organization (optional) none
E-Mail Address skrsr1@yahoo.com

Comments Concerning the centerfire rifle round proposal I wish to include my opinion that this is, without doubt, the best addition I have seen proposed in my plus 50 years afield. My reasons are as follows:

Recoil. The young and those like myself who are aging where recoil needs to be tolerable, the rifle rounds give us added years to enjoy hunting.

Access. The ability to hunt patches of a couple hundred yards of treeless habitat not huntable with shorter range weapons adds literally thousands of acres to "where we can hunt" and access IS a problem for many of us.

Cost. Shotgun slugs are difficult to reload and expensive Rifle rounds are relatively easy to reload and a fraction of the cost new compared to slugs in average rounds.

Lethality: While the slug guns are lethal, velocities and bullet capabilities limit their effectiveness at "longer" ranges. Too many push this too far resulting in wounded and lost deer. The increased accuracy and ballistics of rifle rounds/bullets makes shots THE SAME distance some shoot now that is too far with slugs, a much more successful and human option.

On the "safety" issue repeatedly brought up, consider the words of John Barsness, "gun writer" and regular contributor to several sporting magazines where he states that records of over 40 years shows approx 90 percent of shots were under 200 yards....in all the states and countries he has hunted and not all were HIS shots but those he witnessed. Link below shows this information if you wish to see it.

The habitat of our state and sizes of most parcels one can get permission on limits shots as much as anything. SEEING and IDENTIFYING (buck or doe which is mandatory) at 200 yards or further is not a 3 second venture nor is that common. One MUST determine if the animal is a spike buck instead of a doe so the hunter's "one and done" buck tag is not used on what "most" would consider an "inferior" buck. VERY few are going to shoot any further with a rifle than they do now with slug guns but a few, like me, might but the shot will be by design in an open field where one can see the background to determine that the shot is a safe one to take. Such is NOT the case with slugs in the thicker habitat types where the slug can go through many yards of such possibly striking hunters or property that is unseen within that type of vision limited situation. I'm positive your records show that in spite of the much longer rifled slug barrels and increased power ammunition, improved black powder guns and propellants and even much increased ranges the newer archery equipment makes possible...the AVERAGE distance of deer taken has not dramatically changed in spite of all of these factors. Hunters hunt MOSTLY in the thicker habitat where most of the high deer count is. That will not change on the average and the limits of visibility of these areas dictate the average distance shots are taken, not the firearms used.

While some of us old timers will venture out into more open areas to escape the congestion of hunters, we do so FOR safety reasons. Regardless of weapon used, visibility is increased and number of people within such decrease.

As said above, even in states consisting of the "wide open spaces" out west, Mr. Barsness' 40 years of experience shows that in the literally hundreds of animals taken, all but a few were under 200 yards.

Such will be the case here in Indiana as well, or perhaps the shots will be even shorter on average as I feel due to the facts I have seen in 45 years of deer hunting that are listed above.

The link to the Barsness information should you wish to view it.

<http://www.bergerbullets.com/articles/john-barsness-ballistic-coefficient.pdf>

"Of course, 300 yards isn't all that far. Don't we regularly shoot big game at much longer ranges? Well, maybe some people do, but my hunting notes over the past 40-some years include not just my big-game animals but those of my companions. Just about 90 percent of the shots were made at under 200 yards, and 98 percent at under 300."

Thank you for allowing me to offer my opinion and for viewing such.
As a long time deer hunter, I welcome this addition with open arms and my thanks.
God Bless

Comment Received 1/20/2015 8:50:41 AM

Commenter Name Hershel Burson

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) NRA

E-Mail Address hershel.burson@gmail.com

Comments I am allowed by law to use my 308 caliber rifle in many states that I deer hunt in. I am allowed by law to use my 308 caliber rifle in INDIANA for COYOTE. What's the difference? We should be allowed to use the 308 caliber rifle in Indiana for DEER.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 11:06:45 AM

Commenter Name Ricco Semento

City Kouts **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address spin@nightclubdj.com

Comments I'm in favor of the rule change allowing additional calibers for deer hunting. The restrictive calibers now force hunters to purchase expensive, and hard to find firearms in order to hunt. Other states surrounding us already allow many of these calibers, safety isn't an issue if the other rules for firearms season are followed. I can get hit with a muzzle loader slug just as easy as a 243 bullet, so where is the safety concern? Many hunters already have these calibers and would hunt if allowed, but are NOT hunting now because of the restriction.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 11:23:32 AM

Commenter Name Jerald Jones

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jmjones3913@sbcglobal.net

Comments Thank you DNR for considering allowing rifles with a diameter greater than .243 and a length greater than 1.16 inch. The vast number of hunters are extremely careful as you know. We do not injure ourselves or the public certainly to the degree of auto accidents. Autos are still made to go way beyond the speed limit regardless of the thousands that are killed annually. The DNR has allowed some rifle cartridges to be allowed as a test, I guess, and hunters have shown that they are indeed very responsible. The accuracy of rifles are much improved for most of us over the use of pistols, muzzleloaders, and shotguns. In addition, the recoil of rifles are much less than a shotgun using slugs. I would like to add that using a rifle greater than a 30-06 is really a little too much. Also, allowing rifles near a suburban area may not be a wise choice unless ground hunting is prohibited. Using a rifle, especially in an elevated platform, should not present a danger coupled with an age requirement of age 18 or higher. I have witnessed hunters shooting a 12 gauge emptying their gun on a running deer which is legal. Most hunters do not do this I know. I believe that a hunter using a rifle in an elevated position using a bolt action or single shot poses less danger than a 12 gauge shotgun on ground level. Kentucky allows rifles with hardly any injuries and Indiana, should at least, allow its citizens a trial period just to validate the program. I would like the DNR to disallow the use of spotlighting at night from the roadway as it really serves no legitimate purpose. Mature bucks will alter their patterns if a light is used on them. Deer hunters do not need to spotlight to locate deer, road hunters at night are the lowest form of humanity. Anyway, thank you DNR for considering the use of rifles for deer hunting as we have shown that our sport is safe with very few injuries as compared to football or even just driving an automobile. The anti hunters probably would like us to go back to the spear and slingshot. Thanks for your support. Jerald Jones

Comment Received 1/20/2015 11:59:49 AM

Commenter Name Jerald Jones

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jmjones3913@sbcglobal.net

Comments I have responded previously supporting the addition of rifles for deer hunting. Thank you. I wanted the DNR to know that I have talked to my state senator, Jim Tones, asking him to use his influence to disallow spotlighting from the roadway. As a deer hunter myself, I see no real purpose of this practice. Kentucky and Illinois, both, I believe, do not allow this practice and it aids the slaughter of deer at night as well as disrupts their travel patterns. My county does not have a CO at this time, and even the counties where there are COs, spot lighting just creates so much more time for the COs when they

are spread so thinly as it is. Chasing a spotlighter with a possible gun in their possession is just putting our COs in harms way. Just do away with the practice of spot lighting altogether as it is not needed. Thanks again.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 12:15:31 PM

Commenter Name Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Jansen

City Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** IN

E-Mail Address gaj55@att.net

Comments To whom it may concern,

I am offering my opinion in regards to allowing how high-power rifles as deer hunting weapons in the state of Indiana.

I cannot begin to tell you how much enjoyment our Indiana outdoor resources have brought to my family and to my friends including many of the patients I see in my office. For a good portion of the residents in our area of the state I would say hunting and fishing are integral parts of their lifestyle.

Not one person I've spoken with in my office or at social gatherings have suggested there is a need or do they have a desire for high power rifles in Indiana deer hunting regulations.

The individuals I've spoken with who actually hunt deer express genuine concern over safety issues. The comment I hear most is a hunter using a weapon designed for distant shooting in a close area will simply be dangerous.

I have access to number of properties for deer hunting. Three of those properties are less than 25 acres. One of the three would be considered urban deer hunting. Houses are within a mile in three directions. The other two properties have active hunting on three sides. The danger factor envisioned with the use of long range weapons to both home occupants as well as hunters on neighboring properties is not minimal or modest.

I have been hunting in North East Indiana the past 50 years. I've enjoyed recurve, compound and cross bows as well as shotguns, low caliber rifles and muzzleloaders. I've harvested deer with all of these.

Our regulations currently allow a broad array of weapons that should excite anyone interested in legally and ethically taking a deer. Additional calibers of guns with more power are simply not necessary.

Please pass my thoughts along to the appropriate individuals so that my voice may be heard.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerard (Jerry) Jansen
406 Northshore Dr.
Kendallville, IN. 46755

Comment Received 1/20/2015 12:31:57 PM

Commenter Name William Trigg

City Monrovia **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kindofsudden@yahoo.com

Comments I am for the expanded rifle caliber regulations. I am from an adjacent state that currently allows high powered rifles for deer season. They simply don't have many issues with accidents even over flat land. The expanded selection and better performance allows better control over their deer population. It is also much easier to pick off fawn-killing coyotes from a distance from a deer stand. Also, many muzzleloaders have the range and power of high powered rifles today. Allowing them in the field has not caused issues here. I understand the opposition and would even support county-specific expansion.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 1:03:00 PM

Commenter Name TJ Stinson

City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tjstinson13@gmail.com

Comments I am strongly in favor of allowing a change in the rules governing the legal equipment used to hunt deer. I

support this rule change for three reasons which I will outline below.

1) First off, Indiana already currently allows a variety of rifles which can shoot as far as many high powered rifles. These have been allowed for several years now and, to my knowledge, have been allowed without serious injury or property damage.

2) Secondly, Indiana is similar in terrain and population to many states that already allow the use of high powered rifles. In certain parts of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and New York, the population density is comparable and these states all allow high powered rifles. We also see these states have areas that are similar in terrain as well and yet they still allow the use of high powered rifles. This is done so without serious issues regarding loss of human life or damage to property. Do we think that our hunters here in the state of Indiana are less safety oriented than hunters in these other states?

3) Lastly, this rule change could help the economy a great deal. If this rule change is made, a lot of hunters (myself included) will be looking to buy new deer rifles. This money will be spent at big box retail stores, mom and pop gun shops, and in person to person transactions all over the state. Money will also be generated by the numbers of people who will purchase an over the counter license to get a chance at hunting deer with a high powered rifle. Many of these will be resident hunters and there will also be thousands of out of state hunters that will purchase a license as well. In doing so, the money spent will help to fund many projects at DNR properties throughout the state.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 2:36:50 PM

Commenter Name Greg Amis

City Connersville **County** FAYETTE **State** In.

E-Mail Address gregorylamis@gmail.com

Comments I am very much FOR the rule change to allow high power rifles during firearm season.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 6:57:24 PM

Commenter Name greg paugh

City saint paul **County** DECATUR **State** indiana

E-Mail Address gpaugh@tds.net

Comments I feel if it is necessary to hunt deer with a high powered rifle, one should be willing to be certified on how to properly shoot at long range. Modern shotguns can be used out to 200 yards. I do not see the need.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 7:02:37 PM

Commenter Name David Ray

City bloomington **County** MONROE **State** in

E-Mail Address dhunter@bloomington.in.us

Comments I would like to voice my opinion against allowing centerfire rifles for the general firearms season. The reasons are as follows:

1 - safety. Many hunters hunt small tracks of land. I have hunted in areas with 4-5 hunters on a 40 acre track. Sometimes I can see others in their stands or walking in/out of the hunting areas. Also, many hunters are using ground blinds for deer now and this adds even more of a safety risk to both other hunters, and those in houses that surround hunters. I have seen many stands within 150 yards or less of houses and livestock.

2 - Herd health. Deer hunters are already seeing fewer and fewer deer. When you extend the range that deer can be shot, the herd will continue to shrink more.

3 - public image. Although I wish this was not true, but I know some hunters will take ill advised longer shots at deer just because rifles can shoot farther. This will lead to many more deer being wounded or lost which is not good for the image of Indiana's deer hunters.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

David Ray

812-322-3587

Comment Received 1/20/2015 7:40:36 PM

Commenter Name Barton Cooper

City Milltown **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address barton.cooper@frontier.com

Comments Addendum to Archery hunting- A person must not be in possession of a firearm other than a non scoped handgun during archery season.

Comment Received 1/20/2015 8:48:37 PM

Commenter Name Jason Williams

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address willyjaybob@gmail.com

Comments I'm all for *rifles in private cornfield scenarios where the land is known and in a more controlled situation, but NOT for public land hunts where bullet travel is more likely to hit another hunter.

*Also, I wouldn't mind seeing a provision that rifle hunters must have completed Hunter's Ed, which would be a deterrent to irresponsible hunters/hunting/proper rifle use. No hunter's ed, shotgun only. I want to use a rifle badly myself, but I also don't want just anyone out there learning how to hunt with a projectile that goes 1m+ when I'm hunting with my sons!

Comment Received 1/20/2015 10:09:40 PM

Commenter Name Burns McGerwit

City Huntertown **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shawngarman7382@gmail.com

Comments I am for the new high power rifle proposal because i think it would give a chance for seasoned hunters like myself and my partners to make accurate humane kills, its not so much a distance issue for us we would just like to see more practical calibers be legal to use. Although i also understand the safety issues that come with this proposal due to the once-a-year deer hunters that only go out on opening weekend and rattle off 5 rounds at a doe that is either standing still of running by at full throttle and they either completely miss or blow 5 holes in the deer and take off 3 legs, they shouldnt be allowed to hunt at all whether they have a 12 gauge shotgun or an AR 10 chambered in 308 with a 30 round mag. Keep those guys at home and out of the woods because i hear and see them every gun season in indiana. On the other hand for us ethical and "professional" hunters i think it is a great idea to legalize rifle calibers of .243 and larger because it would give myself an opportunity to try about 4 or 5 of my rifles out on an ethical and most likely successful hunt. Thanks for the new proposal, i hope it gets passed.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 12:46:59 AM

Commenter Name Burns McGerwit

City Huntertown **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shawngarman7382@gmail.com

Comments I am for the new high power rifle proposal because i think it would give a chance for seasoned hunters like myself and my partners to make accurate humane kills, its not so much a distance issue for us we would just like to see more practical calibers be legal to use. Although i also understand the safety issues that come with this proposal due to the once-a-year deer hunters that only go out on opening weekend and rattle off 5 rounds at a doe that is either standing still of running by at full throttle and they either completely miss or blow 5 holes in the deer and take off 3 legs, they shouldnt be allowed to hunt at all whether they have a 12 gauge shotgun or an AR 10 chambered in 308 with a 30 round mag. Keep those guys at home and out of the woods because i hear and see them every gun season in indiana. On the other hand for us ethical and "professional" hunters i think it is a great idea to legalize rifle calibers of .243 and larger because it would give myself an opportunity to try about 4 or 5 of my rifles out on an ethical and most likely successful hunt. Thanks for the new proposal, i hope it gets passed.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 12:50:17 AM

Commenter Name Ben Knapp

City Mulberry **County** CLINTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lb6985@yahoo.com

Comments I support the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. It does not make sense to allow them for coyote hunting, and not for deer.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 8:03:20 AM

Commenter Name Bill Appenzeller

City Milford **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bappenzeller@wmaa.net

Comments I totally disagree with the proposal of allowing deer to be taken with high powered rifles.

A rifle like this could be fired from a ground blind and carry off to an adjoining property, striking another hunter, car, or building.

I hunt with a muzzleloader, bow, and crossbow. I feel these weapons are more than sufficient as I harvest numerous deer every year.

We all preach SAFETY when hunting. Let's think about this.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Bill Appenzeller

Milford, In

Comment Received 1/21/2015 9:42:05 AM

Commenter Name Terry Barnhill II

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address tbarnhill2@comcast.net

Comments My comment is for 312 IAC 9-3-3 changes in equipment for deer hunting. I support the rifle caliber change to a minimum bullet diameter of .243. This will match the current handgun caliber requirement. In my opinion the deer hunting regulations have become too complicated. Making the rifle caliber change would be one small step towards making the regulations less complicated.

Thank you.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 12:13:16 PM

Commenter Name Eric Engle

City Elizabethtown **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** IN

E-Mail Address cootertime@yahoo.com

Comments Allowing the use of HPR's in Indiana in my opinion would only benefit both the state and the people. The state

may attract more out of state hunters who pass us over because of our caliber laws. Other states that have similar topography to Indiana have used high powered rifles for many years now. It all comes down to the person behind the gun. Perhaps if anything we should require more hunter education classes for beginners and make sure they include a segment on the understanding how the trajectory of center-fire rifle bullet flies compared to their "old" 12 ga.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 12:15:49 PM

Commenter Name Alex Kulik

City Moorefield **County** SWITZERLAND **State** IN

E-Mail Address Greenhunter@me.com

Comments I am in favor of Hoosier Deer hunters using Centerfire rifles. I see no evidence that it would be too dangerous to do so. Hunters can currently use pistols with such ammunition to harvest deer. A rifle would make them more accurate while hunting. Furthermore, many of these rifle hunters will be in treestands shooting downward thus increasing a safe shot.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 7:15:27 PM

Commenter Name Bill Leach

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address shelbybildo@yahoo.com

Comments I think it's about time Indiana removes some of the restrictions on hunting rifles. Why not give a hunter the best possible tool for the job and the hope for a humane kill. I don't understand the fear of some that oppose larger calibers as if it's going to be the end of deer hunting. The same thing was said with every other change. If things don't work it could always be changed back. Denying us the chance because of a few that oppose it is unfair. My feeling is that a lot of those opposed are the ones who can afford expensive wildcat rifles that perform like higher powered calibers. By allowing common hunting cartridges like 30-30, 270, 308, 30-06 and so forth you level the playing field for everyone. I can't wait to be able to use a real rifle here.

Comment Received 1/21/2015 7:46:39 PM

Commenter Name Nicholas Yoder

City Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Glockgy@yahoo.com

Comments I support the use of Rifles to deer hunt with. However I do not agree with not having a restriction on any round larger then .243. I think there should be some over sight on the calibers. Example NO 50 BMG or 338 Lapua. These are massive rounds that wont slow down at all and can penetrate hard targets and still travel with so much energy left. I think Ballistic Tip or Hollow point rounds only should be used. Giving the best possibility of a round stopping before exiting a deer.

Comment Received 1/22/2015 7:01:16 AM

Commenter Name Mike Thompson

City Lebanon **County** BOONE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address superbeee_70@hotmail.com

Comments I oppose changing the use of equipment for deer hunting in Section 5, 312 IAC 9-3-3, subsection (d)(4). A rifle of pistol caliber is sufficient. I fear "high powered" rifles of .243 or greater will pose a safety risk and decimate Indiana's deer population.

Comment Received 1/22/2015 8:00:25 AM

Commenter Name David Weitzel

City Cincinnati **County** OHIO **State** Ohio

E-Mail Address dweitzel@fuse.net

Comments Yes, please amend 312 IAC 9-3-3 pertaining to deer hunting rifles. A 30-30 would be an acceptable hunting weapon for deer and would pose no problem with the topography of the land I own in Indiana.

Comment Received 1/22/2015 8:57:55 AM

Commenter Name Andy Fountain

City Freetown **County** JACKSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address k12lts@gmail.com

Comments I support the proposal to allow centerfire rifles with a caliber larger than .243 to be used for deer during firearm season

Comment Received 1/22/2015 9:17:27 AM

Commenter Name Joseph Golding

City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** IN

E-Mail Address josephgolding@comcast.net

Comments I would like to voice my opinion on the legalization of high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. I am very

much against this because of public safety for other hunters and for the general public. The bullet carries to far with theses type of guns to be used in this state. The state of Indiana is far to densely populated to insure safety with this law. The number of accidental shooings will increase dramatically if you allow this law. Nothing positive can come out of this new proposal only more deaths. Please do what is right.

Comment Received 1/22/2015 9:39:29 AM

Commenter Name timothy uhl

City salem County WASHINGTON State indiana

E-Mail Address timpatuhl@yahoo.com

Comments Let me start off with I own several rifles. I have been hunting in Canada, Mexico, Alaska and Western states with rifles. The difference is that I have a great respect for what a rifle can and will do compared to a hunter that purchases a rifle for the first time and hunts with it because it is legal. Don't get me wrong several hunters are responsible and will not take that shot that could change someones life forever. You do not get to pull that bullet back if it misses the target. I have hunted several time and when darkness come all the sudden someone stands up or walks through the woods I did not know was there. Trespasser or someone didn't know I was hunting. I know the bullet from a muzzleloader or shotgun has a chance of blowing through a deer but a rifle certainly will almost everytime. Where does that bullet go? How far over the hill will that bullet go if you miss? If one person is killed it will be to many. If you can't kill a deer with a muzzleloader, shotgun or the legal rifle rounds now take up a new hobby. My son is 14, he is a very good shot but I will not let him hunt alone with a gun. And some parent will. Its a tuff call on rifles that everyone will have to make if it is legal. But think about this: you are hunting in a woods looking at a buck in the field someone drives by spots the deer jumps out of the truck with the ar-15 .308 with the 5 round clip or heaven forbit a 15 round opens up on it running across the field. I would not like to be in that woods. It would be like a video game. It will happen!! Its not worth it we have a good thing going in Indiana please don't mess it up.

Thanks for you time Pat

Comment Received 1/22/2015 10:34:17 AM

Commenter Name Adam Treibic

City Franklin County JOHNSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address amgt3136@gmail.com

Comments I ask that DNR not allow high powered rifle deer hunting in Indiana for the following reasons:

1. Safety
2. Not as sporting given longer range
3. Potential impact on deer harvest and future tag limitations
4. Safety

Please give serious consideration to not moving forward with this change. Keep deer hunting safe and challenging and accessible.

Thank you,

Comment Received 1/22/2015 10:40:41 AM

Commenter Name Brooks Langeloh

City Columbia City County WHITLEY State IN

E-Mail Address brooks@orizonrealestate.com

Comments In regards to the expanded use of rifles, my vote is a resounding NO. Please, for the SAFETY of my family, hunters, and the general public, do NOT allow this to pass! I want to address the points made by the DNR as to why the change should be made.

True, there are no limits on rifles for other species, BUT comparing a handful of coyote hunters scattered everywhere to opening day of gun season is ridiculous. Deer season puts too many people in close proximity, on nearly flat terrain.

SAFETY FIRST

True, muzzleloaders have evolved, BUT a rifle can shoot much farther. I don't know of anyone with a 500 yd mz but more importantly, a mz is ONE SHOT. I'm am going to say that most hunting(shooting) accidents happen in multiple shot scenarios. Safety issue, More guns, more people, more bullets to travel farther.

True, they are legal in nearby states, Kentucky, Michigan(northern) Pennsylvania, BUT NOT the same terrain, hunter density, or population density as 2/3 of Indiana. What about Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan(lower) not "nearby, but adjoining. with more similar population density and terrain. Safety first

The herd has been reduced, the DNR is reversing the amount of antlerless that can be taken, so there is NO NEED to add equipment that has safety implications.

True, a rifle can humanely kill a deer, but so can a machine gun. Safety first.

If this rule passes, you will be putting EVERYONE at risk, not just hunters, EVERY house, adult and child in their yard, every pet, every farm animal, every car driving down the road will be in DANGER of being struck by a bullet from half a mile away. It WILL happen in northern Indiana. Is the Commission willing to take responsibility for the tragedy that is inevitable?

I worry now with the current rifles, we had a near miss (30 yards) on one of our farms resulting from a neighbor shooting from a ground blind and ricocheting. I will not let my son gun hunt that farm, because of the people we have hunting adjoining properties.

Please do NOT let this pass.

Comment Received 1/22/2015 11:03:01 AM

| |
|--|
| <p>Commenter Name JMann City Bloomfield County GREENE State IN E-Mail Address jlemuelmann@gmail.com Comments I strongly endorse/recommend the DNR approve hunting deer with rifle caliber cartridges. There is a disparity in allowing rifles for coyote hunting but not deer. Using a rifle is more precise and humane than pistol or shotgun. additionally if the DNR is wanting to increase harvest numbers, rifle use will facilitate that effort. The voices against rifle hunting are rooted in fear and have not reviewed this logically. The facts from other states allowing rifle deer hunting speak for themselves for safety and use. Recommend approval and implementation. Comment Received 1/22/2015 11:58:53 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Steven Houchen City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana E-Mail Address shouchen@seidata.com Comments We need to pass this and finally allow rifles. They are allowed in surrounding states and I see no reason for this to not be passed. If people do not desire to use rifles then just don't use them. For those who do want to use rifles you will finally be allowed. Safety is a concern and I understand that. It is comparable to smoking. If someones wants to smoke.... go ahead. Just don't blow smoke in my face because I prefer not to smoke. I do think they should have the right to smoke though. Get this over with! Comment Received 1/22/2015 12:46:31 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name william yeager City North Vernon County JENNINGS State Indiana E-Mail Address weyyeager@yahoo.com Comments I would like you to vote yes on the new proposals./ FYI I already hunt with the new 358 Hoosier wildcat round. Comment Received 1/22/2015 7:21:55 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Lawrence F Fisher City Cicero County HAMILTON State Indiana E-Mail Address Lfme4thelake@comcast.net Comments Please approve Section 5 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for Deer Hunting (d) (4) (A) rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications: Fire a bullet of two hundred forty three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger. Comment Received 1/23/2015 11:43:25 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name paul ingram City elizabeth County HARRISON State IN E-Mail Address skilletman70@hotmail.com Comments I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LAW CHANGED TO USE HIGH POWERED RIFELS , BECAUSE TOO MANY DEERS ARE INJURED BY SHOTGUNS, AND LEFT TO DIE THANK YOU PAUL INGRAM Comment Received 1/23/2015 12:41:08 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name John Frank City Huntingburg County DUBOIS State Indiana E-Mail Address lrcrittergitter@yahoo.com Comments Yes to centerfire rifles. Comment Received 1/23/2015 12:45:25 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Joe Mullet City Westville County LAPORTE State Indiana E-Mail Address joemullet0@gmail.com Comments I see no reason for the hi-power rifle . The herd is thin enough, I have seen the herd decline over the last 4 years. More deer will be wounded and not recovered due to hunters taking long distance shots, most will not be displied enough to practice enough to take ethical 200+ yard shots. The dangers of stray bullets striking residents, other hunters and or damage to property is a great risk. Comment Received 1/23/2015 1:31:17 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Laurel Mills City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana E-Mail Address laurelemills@gmail.com Comments I am a girl hunter (21 years old). I enjoy deer hunting on our farm when I am able, but do not enjoy using a shotgun. I would really be a lot more comfortable hunting with a smaller rifle that kicks less. I hunt with a 20 gage that kicks much harder than the 243 and 270 I have fired before at a range. Thank you. Comment Received 1/23/2015 5:00:39 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Kim Kensill City fishers County HAMILTON State IN Organization (optional) none</p> |

E-Mail Address kimk@jecoplastics.com

Comments I am firmly against allowing high powered rifles for deer in Indian for the following reasons

1. endangers others with errant shots, longer shots
2. longer shots means more non-lethal shots = more wasted game.
3. if you cant get within 20 feet of a deer you are no hunter.
4. I can think of no good reason to do it.

Comment Received 1/23/2015 5:49:21 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Emond

City Schererville **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jeffhfd168@gmail.com

Comments I am an avid Indiana deer hunter for almost 30 years now, and have harvested one to three deer every deer season using archery, muzzle loader and shot gun. With cross bows and technology with muzzle loaders, there is no reason to add high-powered rifles to Indiana hunting weapons. If someone cannot kill a deer with today's weapons, they will not be able to do so with a high-powered rifle either. I hunt private property, but if I had to use public lands with people using high-powered rifles, I would just leave the state and go out west on a paid professional hunt instead of hunting in Indiana. Every year at the shooting range, I see many people with BAD safety habits today. For example, two years ago the guy next to me at the shooting range was beating on his muzzle loader cap with a pair of pliers which caused a spark and ignited a charge and the gun went off. It could have killed me as the gun was laying on a table as he was doing this. I have seen multiple men at the shooting range share a 12 gauge short barrel smooth bore shot gun with slugs and all they end up doing is shooting 40 rounds never hitting a target. I have also seen a man who took his girlfriend to the range with a semi automatic weapon while the girl held the gun with one hand resting the gun on the shooting table while giggling with rest of her group not even paying attention to the weapon. My point is that bad habits at the range mean bad habits in the field where there are school buses, live stock and homes. We don't need to make this worse.

Comment Received 1/23/2015 8:01:56 PM

Commenter Name Kevin blanch

City Yorktown **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Kblanch@indycar.com

Comments Allowing rifle hunting in Indiana is not needed or wanted by most Indiana hunters. Indiana land is not large enough for high powered rifles and will lead to many more accidents. I have hunted for years and no where I have hunted would I feel safe if I or another hunter was hunting with a high powered rifle. Indiana is one of the hunting lands where hunting deer is still a large challenge to take game with the equipment allowed now. Don't Change the gun hunting laws

Comment Received 1/24/2015 9:34:03 AM

Commenter Name Terry Mitchell

City Whitestown **County** BOONE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Tem375@gmail.com

Comments I am strongly for the proposed rule change allowing rifles .243 and larger to be used to harvest deer in Indiana. This proposed rule change uses common sense as the same rifles are allowed to be used on many other types of game in Indiana already, so it makes no sense for them to be restricted when it comes to deer.

Comment Received 1/25/2015 8:14:13 AM

Commenter Name E. Hildebrandt

City Hebron **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address elden@netnitco.net

Comments I do not think you need to change the specs. on rifle cartridges. We have plenty of choices of long guns for harvesting deer. Just because muzzle loaders have evolved is no reason to allow additional longer range firearms. Maybe these longer range guns should be limited to the hilly and rolling terrain counties.

I have also always questioned the accuracy of harvest numbers since the electronic reporting became available.

Comment Received 1/25/2015 11:13:38 AM

Commenter Name Justin Landrum

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address justin@onlyinternet.net

Comments It is of my opinion that the proposed rifle caliber change should be denied for two reasons, public safety and the number of deer in the state. In the area where I live and hunt there are many small woods and several houses near those wooded areas. It would be possible in my opinion that a rifle of 243 caliber or larger if loaded with the proper bullet would have a very good possibility of ricocheting and traveling to the houses and buildings near theses wooded areas. It is of my opinion that all hunters have the opportunity to harvest deer with the current allowed calibers of firearms, and there is no need for rifles of the capability of traveling greater distances.

Also the number of deer seen in the area where I live has been on the decline for several years, so much that in discussion with other local hunters and residents there is great concern of the overall "health" of the deer heard. My occupation is farming in Huntington County and given my opportunity to witness deer in the farm fields I truly believe the new rifle rules would be detrimental to the deer heard and make it hard for future generations to enjoy what I have been able to in my lifetime.

Having hunted in the same area for 20+ years I can honestly say that of the deer that have eluded me during many hunting

seasons, none of which were a result of not having a rifle capable of firing at great distances. Most all of the deer I have harvested have been 100 yards or less, well within the distance of the current allowed firearms.

Comment Received 1/25/2015 5:31:13 PM

Commenter Name George Petro
City Griffith County LAKE State IN
E-Mail Address edmar95@att.net

Comments I am against all aspects of the proposed changes. As far as to the deer hunting I feel that not have the hunters who would utilize high powered rifles to have to show the completed a hunter safety course is a major problem. There is also the fact that the rounds in these weapons travel a long distance and would be utilized in the residential hunting areas. As to the daily limits of pan fish being reduced, I have not seen a specific reason noted for this. The increase of the size for walleye to be kept again for the reason noted does not make sense to me as there is no history of it being over fished.

Comment Received 1/25/2015 5:44:36 PM

Commenter Name Louis Meyer
City Floyds Knobs County FLOYD State Indiana
E-Mail Address Lmeyer327@aol.com

Comments To whom it may concern, pertaining the proposal to allow centerfire rifles for deer hunting. I am in favor of allowing said firearms for deer hunting in Indiana. Rifles can already be used for varmint hunting, so their use would not be something new to Indiana. Varmint hunting generally is done at long range, where as deer hunting is generally fairly close, comparatively. Safe hunters will be safe no matter the firearm used. Thank you. Louis Meyer

Comment Received 1/25/2015 6:30:16 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Wright
City Muncie County DELAWARE State IN
E-Mail Address jwright414@aol.com

Comments The use of .243 or larger is a bad idea because of population density, terrain and hunter mentality. The people of Indiana do not need to conform to the regulations of neighboring of states. the terrain of Kentucky is a lot different than central Indiana and it is only legal in upper Michigan. Go out and sit in a stand or blind during gun season, listen to the rapid succession of shots coming from our responsible hunters. Are they concern with what's behind their target or if landscape would allow the bullet to skip? I personally would quit hunting when these calibers would be allowed in the field. What of the businesses that are built around the current regulations?

Comment Received 1/25/2015 7:12:16 PM

Commenter Name Michael L. Dunning
City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana
E-Mail Address michaelldunning@comcast.net

Comments On the proposed legislation on permitting center fire rifles in Indiana, It is a bad idea. Indiana is too flat and a center fire rifle projectile can travel too far over the flat farm land of this state. Many of them can travel a couple of miles without the proper backstop, like a mountain . There none in this state A shotgun, black powder rifle or pistol or center fire pistol of the appropriate caliber is more than adequate. for any game in Indiana. I have been hunting deer back in Maryland for over thirty years and never found the need for a rifle, as most of the deer hunting is along the edges of farm fields or in the woods. Not like out West where you may have to shoot several hundred yards to hit your target. again, rifles are unnecessary and dangerous here.

Comment Received 1/25/2015 7:32:08 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Neslon
City Elkhart County ELKHART State In
E-Mail Address dennis.nelson2@honeywell.com

Comments In Favor of the hunting equipment change... All of it

Comment Received 1/25/2015 8:09:59 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Hodgson
City Newburgh County WARRICK State IN
E-Mail Address wrenchman1@wowway.com

Comments I think other cartridges should be available to deer hunters. However I also believe they should be limited. In my opinion the use of .243 or 30-06 would be a safety concern to the public. Hunter education courses teach us to always know where the round stops. When shooting 300 to 500 yards there is no way to know where the round stops, at that point the round is out of control. Ultra high velocity rounds are also a safety hazard to hunters using them because of the fragmenting rounds leading to the consumption of lead when the animals are eaten. (If a deer is shot with a .243 at 50 yards it is not safe to eat because of fragmenting lead.) I believe the options to hunters could be opened up by naming specific cartridges like the 30-30. The 7.62x39 would not be a good choice because it would open up hunting to inaccurate military type firearms. If new rounds like the 30-30 were available and not the .243 everyone will have gotten something without compromising safety.

Comment Received 1/25/2015 11:46:01 PM

Commenter Name Dean Zimmerman
City West Point **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address zimmy07@msn.com
Comments First, I have no problem adding the 28 gauge shotgun to legal firearms to take deer. However, I am very much opposed to any change to center fire rifle regulations. The current case length restrictions are sufficient to kill deer, yet not endanger the lives of other hunters and area residents. Removing casing length restrictions will allow projectiles to travel much greater distances creating safety concerns for other hunters and area residents. There are many deer hunters out there that lack experience and don't know their rifles. Two-thirds of Indiana is relatively flat and projectiles that carry 2-3 miles are a hazard. Additionally, I don't believe deer hunters need additional fire power to control the deer herd. I am seeing fewer deer in my area. I believe the DNR says that the deer herd is in decline in many counties. Hunters need no additional tools or fire power to kill deer. In fact, I believe the DNR should begin cutting back on the deer harvest in many areas. The timing for this new liberalization of legal firearms for deer hunting is ill timed. Fellow hunters I speak with are two to one against liberalizing or changing center fire rifle regulations. In summary, please leave rifle cartridge and calibers where they are. Thank you.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 12:01:54 AM

Commenter Name John Postallian
City Aurora **County** DEARBORN **State** IN
E-Mail Address johnjulie1979@embarqmail.com
Comments Commissioners, I am not in favor of going beyond what we already have for permissible cartridges for deer hunting. I would not feel safe with the high velocities and long distances of the ammo we would encounter out in the field.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 11:40:24 AM

Commenter Name shawn Blalock
City union city **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address shawnblalock@gmail.com
Comments Firearms season for whitetail deer in Indiana is dangerous enough without adding high powered rifles to the equation. The state added certain calibers with pistol cartridges a few years ago and a good friend of mine and I were nearly shot this past season by 3 stray bullets that were delivered by pistol cartridges from the next property over. Unfortunately, some hunters don't think about distance and where, what and who they might hit at the end of the bullets destination should they miss their target. I've found that this is usually the case with running or moving targets most of the time and the shooter tends to lose focus of the background of the target after the first shot.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 11:48:21 AM

Commenter Name Christopher Young
City Williams **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) retired
E-Mail Address young47470@hotmail.com
Comments 312 IAC 9-3-3 The DNR has listed their beliefs for proposed changes and why they will work in Indiana. I agree with all listed beliefs but, if needed, we could set-up our new high-powered rifle requirements as Michigan. New rifle requirements for the hilly half of Indiana, south of highway 70 only. Then keep the flat northern half reg.'s as is.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 2:52:15 PM

Commenter Name Donald L Jones
City hammond **County** LAKE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address hydroman57@att.net
Comments To the NRC. As a hunter education instructor for our great state I would like to say I'm totally opposed to the change regarding the lowering of to say that I'm opposed to some of the upcoming recommended rule changes. Number one : Section 5 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment For Deer Hunting. Specifically the change governing the bullet dia. and length. I understand the argument regarding the modern muzzleloader. My concern is allowing way to many types of rifles with regular rifle ammo not only in the relative flat farm land of northern Indiana, but also allowing these rifles to be used in the very populated urban zone.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 7:47:33 PM

Commenter Name Donald L Jones
City Hammond **County** LAKE **State** IN.
E-Mail Address hydroman57@att.net
Comments To the NRC. This comment is in regard to the rule change governing the number of deer a hunter can take in the urban/reduction zone. I have a concern that the proposal to up the limit to 10 from 4 is way too drastic a measure. I'm concerned that this change is in response to the insurance lobby and not the DNR or it's biologist.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 8:07:24 PM

Commenter Name KEITH WALORSKI

City SOUTH BEND **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address KEITHWALORSKI@GMAIL.COM

Comments I have enjoyed deer hunting in Indiana since the mid 1980's. I have seen many rule and equipment changes in the last 30 years. Muzzle loaders have evolved from primitive weapons to weapons with incredible accuracy. Bows have gone from recurve to high tech tack driver compounds to crossbows.. Shotguns are rifled or shoot rifled slugs and are accurate well over 100 yds. We then introduced handguns and some pretty hot calibers. That evolved to allowing rifles with the same calibers. I personally have embraced most of these changes and been successful taking deer with most of these weapons. I am now considering a rifle purchase. Now we are considering .243 rifles and larger. I do not support this change. I see no need for this much power in Indiana hunting. I fear the range capabilities, the ultra long shots that will be taken and the running deer shots that I hear way too often. Also to think of those rifles in Potato Creek reduction hunts across the road from my home is frightening. This is only asking for trouble. Indiana hunting is far better than it has been in past decades. Our DNR has done a wonderful job in improving our game, please leave well enough alone and leave our cartridge restrictions in place. Thanks for caring enough to allow us to have input.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 8:17:32 PM

Commenter Name Dave Toland

City Geneva **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address charidytoland@yahoo.com

Comments I think it would be a good thing for high powered rifles. It is no different then anything else just common sense, I think they should not allow the 338 Lupua or the 50 BMG.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 8:20:12 PM

Commenter Name Donald L JONES

City Hammond **County** LAKE **State** IN.

E-Mail Address hydroman57@att.net

Comments To the NRC. This comment is in regard to the purposed rule change governing the daily possession limit of sunfish in Indiana from public waters I'm opposed to this change. I know that by limiting the taking of these fish on some water can harm them more then help. I suggest u allow the biologist to make a determination on where to put limits.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 8:20:33 PM

Commenter Name Jacob Speicher

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address dvm2009.js@gmail.com

Comments I am pro using center fire rifles to deer hunting. This would be wonderful fo me because then I would likely hunt in Iniana. Currently I do not because I have no interest in archery or black powder firearms. I don't have proper caliber pistols or pistol caliber rifles. So allowing high powered firearms would allow me to hunt with firearms I already have. Please pass this bill.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 10:45:06 PM

Commenter Name Todd Frady

City Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** IN

E-Mail Address Fradytw@gmail.com

Comments I do not believe allowing high power rifles of .243 caliber or above will make hunting whitetail hunting within our state better. Our deer numbers seem to be down already and allowing hunters to use high power rifles will most likely lead to more trophy deer being killed at longer ranges. I don't believe that a muzzleloader is equivalent to 500 yard gun and is nowhere near a 300 win mag in performance.

Comment Received 1/26/2015 10:48:55 PM

Commenter Name Adam Walton

City Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address adam.walton@navy.mil

Comments Approving high power rifles during Indiana firearms season is a BAD idea. Those that have hunted this state for years have had little trouble filling tags with the equipment we are already being allowed to use. So, why add any more danger with longer range guns? We as a State need to focus less on how to kill more animals at longer ranges and spend more time improving the health of the heard we have. It is sad to say the efforts taken by our law makers to COMMERCIALIZE our sport has made it worse for the residents that live here.

Comment Received 1/27/2015 12:43:25 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Flamion

City St. Croix **County** PERRY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address flamion@psci.net

Comments I am a land owner of 450 acres in Perry County and have a large border with the Hoosier National Forrest. I strongly oppose the rule change to allow rifle rounds down to .243. I already have a large problem with hunters illegally trespassing on my ground and when confronted simply say they didn't know they crossed the line from the National Forrest onto my ground. Many of these hunters are inexperienced and I do not need the additional concern of them using high

powered rifles in the future. Perry County is mostly made up of small farms where a hunter could use a high powered rifle to shoot at a deer across a field and not realize that the wood line is someone else's property and their could be a hunter just a few yards in the woods and not easily seen from 400 + yards away. I am an experienced hunter and I think Indiana has the perfect choice of rounds available for deer hunting with the current rules. I personally use a .44 magnum, but also have used a shotgun and muzzle loader.

I do have a suggestion that I would like to propose. I think, as a land owner, I should have some benefit above a non land owner. It is difficult for me to have a successful hunt when on opening morning, I am surrounded by hunters just off my property line in the National Forrest. I would propose that a land owner be allowed to hunt on their own land in a special season for them only a day or two before the season opens for everyone else. We, as land owners are the ones paying property taxes and as farmers are providing food sources for wildlife. It would be nice to have some extra consideration for our investment in our community and county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Comment Received 1/27/2015 9:15:09 PM

Commenter Name David Guthrie

City Medora **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dguthrie79@icloud.com

Comments I am in favor of making .243 caliber rifles and larger legal for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 1/27/2015 10:05:09 PM

Commenter Name Delane Richhart

City Lakeville **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address d.richhart@yahoo.com

Comments I would like allow deer hunting with high powered rifles. Unless a person has permission to hunt a woods, he is restricted to open field shots. These shots are of a long distance. I have tried to get permission to hunt the woods around my property to no avail. They are already being hunted. However, from the treeline in my fence rows I have long shots as the deer cross two open fields when traveling between two woods. I have not even been buying deer licenses because I had no chance of harvesting a deer. Now I can use my 30-06 and accurately harvest, not wound, a deer. Thanks for this opportunity.

Comment Received 1/27/2015 10:23:28 PM

Commenter Name Jason

City Mitchell **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jbell_64@yahoo.com

Comments I support the amendment to allow .243 and up calibers for deer hunting. If you are worried about herd numbers, lower the number of doe tags....

Comment Received 1/28/2015 7:48:22 AM

Commenter Name Tina Schwind

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tschwind@haggard-stocking.com

Comments I am vehemently opposed to "canned hunting" these facilities should be banned from the State. To consider this a "sport" is ludicrous. I see little difference between canned hunting and dog/cock fighting. To argue that you deprive an individual of their livelihood doesn't concern me more than I am concerned for those individuals who make their livelihood off just such endeavors. The legalizing/legitimizing of canned hunting sickens and disgusts me. Backwoods hicks have more couth than this.

Comment Received 1/28/2015 8:53:44 AM

Commenter Name Chris Johnson

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Cmjohnson601@msn.com

Comments Good! Glad to see these rules become normal! I Think these are good changes and are needed!

Comment Received 1/28/2015 9:35:25 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Lambert

City Hardinsburg **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dlambertn@aol.com

Comments Pass the legislation on high power rifles in Indiana.

A rifle and a scope are more accurate than a slug or handgun cartridge fired thru a rifle.

Aim small, miss small.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 8:18:36 AM

Commenter Name Justin Doxsee

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address krinkovblaster@yahoo.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing high powered rifles for deer season, I would like to see the proposal amended to allow rifles of .224" caliber as well.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 7:44:25 PM

Commenter Name David Wagler

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address wagler.david@gmail.com

Comments I'm in favor of allowing high powered rifles for hunting in Indiana. I would also like to see calibers down to .224 allowed.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 7:52:44 PM

Commenter Name Branham lafferty

City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Blafferty@republicservices.com

Comments I do not believe a rifle season in Indiana is merited. Within the last five years, hunters in Indiana have harvested record numbers of whitetails with short range equipment. The addition of a rifle season would likely further decrease the whitetail population which almost certainly is already in a steep decline. I further believe that most of the terrain in Indiana is not suitable for high powered rifles due to the vast amount of flat agricultural fields.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 8:40:18 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Miller

City Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** IN

E-Mail Address aks74__@hotmail.com

Comments I'm for changing to rifle calibers .243 and larger for deer hunting. Full size rifle cartridges are no more dangerous than any of the cartridges currently allowed. All of these cartridges have been in use for quite a few years in pistols and have never been a problem.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 8:54:50 PM

Commenter Name James Turpin

City Sirleyh **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Landowner

E-Mail Address turpinjle@yahoo.com

Comments I do not agree with allowing the use of .243 rifles and above.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 9:14:07 PM

Commenter Name Caleb Doxsee

City Woodburn **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cake5150@gmail.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting including 0.224 calibers.

Comment Received 1/29/2015 11:31:41 PM

Commenter Name Joshua M Mull

City Harlan **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address josh.mull@gfs.com

Comments I would like to see the change made in the hunting regulations to allow high powered rifles for the 2015 season. I would also like to see .224 allowed as well...

Thanks, Josh Mull

Comment Received 1/30/2015 9:02:12 AM

Commenter Name chris sausman

City osceola **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cjsausman@cs.com

Comments I have concerns over the legalization of centerfire rifle calibers for hunting whitetail deer. Indiana is a state without rifle hunting culture . There has been virtually no exposure to the extended range capabilities and ignorance will exist. Small hunting parcels, relatively flat geography and higher population demographics make me feel its a poor choice based on safety. Additionally additional deer harvest in my opinion will be minimal at best but instance of issues will elevate. I personally oppose the extension to include centerfire rifles for these reasons. Michigan is a prime example where a rifle hunting culture does exist but only above mid state. Southern Mighigan has a lower population demographic excluding Lansing, and more undeveloped acreage yet they choose not to bring the rifle zone south for obvious reasons.

Regards Chris Sausman

Comment Received 1/30/2015 10:17:36 AM

Commenter Name William Roberts

City Cloverdale **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address theroberts726@hotmail.com

Comments I would like to emphasize that with EHD (Blue Tongue) killing many deer the last couple years, we should be reducing the length of gun seasons as well as NOT allowing high powered rifles. Why would we be allowing more dangerous guns for taking deer? Our deer herd is already diminishing. We should be cutting the "Antler-less" Quotas down. Pleas DO NOT approve the use of high powered rifles! It is already very dangerous on public hunting lands with our current ridiculous

gun season, we don't need any more guns out there especially more lethal ones.

Comment Received 1/30/2015 10:50:42 AM

Commenter Name Pat Hurst

City Brownsburg **County** HENDRICKS **State** IN

E-Mail Address pathurst1986@yahoo.com

Comments I am in favor of the proposed laws for deer hunting with rifles

Comment Received 1/30/2015 11:10:51 AM

Commenter Name Trisha Day

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address oneill9989@sbcglobal.net

Comments I'm all for the proposed changes to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting.

Comment Received 1/30/2015 11:11:53 AM

Commenter Name Michael Barmes

City greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address viperman842@gmail.com

Comments Pass the high power rifle law!

Comment Received 1/30/2015 11:47:24 AM

Commenter Name John Gordon

City Liberty **County** UNION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address gordopga@gmail.com

Comments I personally don't see how using high powered rifles will benefit anyone's hunting experience. Shotguns comfortably fire out to 100 yds. and ml's close to 150 yds.. It is next to impossible to get a reasonable shot in the woods at over 100 yards. Firing a weapon at a hundred yards or more ethically requires practice. I believe a small percentage of hunters are willing to practice. Hunting is about pursuing your game and getting as close to the animal for an ethical shot. One article I read stated ammunition is cheaper for rifles, it didn't state how affordable the rifle is. I would venture to say a small percentage of hunters own a rifle. How about this expense. I am all for improving the hunting experience, but I hope whoever adopts the use of HP rifles can explain how it is going to improve the deer hunters experience. As far as safety goes, I hunt on public land and I don't know where other hunters are located. I wouldn't feel as safe.

Comment Received 1/30/2015 1:30:35 PM

Commenter Name Teresa Fordice

City Russellville **County** PUTNAM **State** IN

Organization (optional) DNR Law Enforcement

E-Mail Address tk4dice@yahoo.com

Comments I do NOT want any high powered rifles used during deer hunting or any other hunts around my property - it is NOT safe.

Comment Received 1/30/2015 3:20:15 PM

Commenter Name Rhet E Wathen

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** 65

E-Mail Address wr47@rocketmail.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing the use of centerfire rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. This would allow me to use a rifle that is much more ergonomic and accurate than a shotgun, to further enhance my probability of a clean kill. My wife, being of small stature, and recoil sensitive, would also have her hunting opportunities expanded by such a rule change. I currently hunt with a .357 Magnum single shot rifle, and believe that a short-action centerfire cartridge would be much more appropriate.

Comment Received 1/30/2015 5:11:02 PM

Commenter Name Bob Jackson

City newberry **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bjackson9@yahoo.com

Comments I believe the proposed changes are a good idea. I own a small Farm where people deer Hunt and I have hunted in Ky. and Tn. with Rifles. I see NO reason with any problem with Rifles at least up to the .30/30. Making it more easy on granting and or gaining permission to hunt will also be a help. A short simple Form being made available for copying on Line for granting permission to Hunt would also be nice for the Landowner and the Hunter.

Comment Received 1/31/2015 5:49:45 PM

Commenter Name Nathan Kaiser

City Butler **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address drakkule@mchsi.com

Comments Allowing high power rifles for deer, would be beneficial to making cleaner deaths.

Comment Received 1/31/2015 9:51:10 PM

Commenter Name Tammy Knous

City Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** IN

E-Mail Address tammyknous@yahoo.com

Comments I think the rules should be changed to allow high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting. The same cartridges are already being used in pistols and I think it will attract more people to the sport.

Comment Received 1/31/2015 9:59:12 PM

Commenter Name sean johnson

City decatur **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address seanjohnson333@gmail.com

Comments I am for allowing the use of high powered rifles for hunting in the state of Indiana.

Comment Received 1/31/2015 10:11:23 PM

Commenter Name Scott Kern

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address scottmk@bluemarble.net

Comments I support the changes to 312 IAC 9-3-3 section d(4), which would allow the taking of deer with rifle cartridges having bullets of .243 or larger diameter and no max case length.

Comment Received 2/1/2015 8:20:09 PM

Commenter Name Robert Gillogly

City Thorntown **County** BOONE **State** IN

Organization (optional) Mr.

E-Mail Address rwgillogly@yahoo.com

Comments I believe high powered rifles for deer to be a bad idea, at least in the northern two thirds of the state. It's just too flat and populous. People being people, there are some who will pick the largest caliber, most powerful weapon they can get. I personally know of hunters who intend to use calibers too powerful for bison. I'd love to hunt with my 308 but just don't believe it's safe

Comment Received 2/1/2015 11:31:04 PM

Commenter Name Rev. James Davis

City Fortville **County** HANCOCK **State** IN

Organization (optional) Fortville Church of the Nazarene

E-Mail Address pastorjames@fortvillenazarene.org

Comments I would like to show my support for the proposed (312 IAC 9-3-3 (d)(4)) change to the firearm regulations of deer hunting. I believe this will not only opens the door for different equipment, but I also believe that using a rifle should open the door for younger hunters who might be physically hindered by a shotgun or who are timid with the thought of using a shotgun of a larger caliber. Please pass this change with my support and the support of many other local adult and young hunters standing behind you. Sincerely, Rev. James Davis

312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting Authority:

Sec. 3 (d)(4)

(4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) two hundred forty- three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

(C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches.

Full metal jacketed bullets are unlawful.

(e) During the muzzleloader season established in section 4(f) of this rule, an individual must hunt deer only with a:

Comment Received 2/2/2015 1:13:21 PM

Commenter Name Drew Packman

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dpackman@indiana.edu

Comments Decidedly in favor of being legal to hunt deer with a rifle of .243 caliber or larger in the state of Indiana. Do not have any safety concerns about changing the law. Please vote yes on this measure.

Comment Received 2/4/2015 9:59:10 AM

Commenter Name Ben Muncie

City Stinesville **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) N/A

E-Mail Address benmuncie@yahoo.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing the use of rifles to harvest deer in Indiana. Considering the trajectory and bullet drop of high powered rifles, hills and trees as backdrop, and safe hunting practices that hunters are supposed to employ, there should be an increase in deer harvested without additional risk to human life. Friends in Kentucky have hunted with rifles for years with great deer harvest results.

Thank you for considering this change in deer hunting law.

Comment Received 2/4/2015 3:22:19 PM

Commenter Name Brennan Webb

City Jeffersonville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address crosshairs308@gmail.com

Comments I support the proposal to allow common center-fire cartridges. However, most states allow at least .223 and up. I am requesting the proposal include .223 caliber since modern ammunition has a much higher performance on medium game animals (deer) than in the past.

Thanks,

Brennan Webb

Comment Received 2/5/2015 10:59:29 AM

Commenter Name David Hunt

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** IN

E-Mail Address dhunt5893@gmail.com

Comments I feel that the whitetail population has been hit hard enough recently by other rule changes and disease. I would really like to see the rifle/firearms rules and regulations stay the way they are now. I know most studies have shown no heightened danger to hunters but i have to disagree. There are times that i have felt to be in a dangerous situation with the current weapons being used. I hunt mostly public ground and feel that this is a potentially deadly choice. Now that my 10 year old daughter is getting involved in the outdoors this makes me worry that much more. Thanks

Comment Received 2/5/2015 11:09:50 AM

Commenter Name Gary Wendholt

City Ferdinand **County** DUBOIS **State** IN

E-Mail Address gholt@pscl.net

Comments I am in favor of the use of high powered rifles of .243 or larger for use during deer firearms season,however I would encourage the issuance of a rifle license.

Comment Received 2/5/2015 2:26:39 PM

Commenter Name Seward Horner

City Wakarusa **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sewardhorner@gmail.com

Comments I am writing in response to the proposed changes the DNR is making to allow rifles to be used for deer hunting. I do not like this proposed rule change for many reasons. Proponents point to MI and KY allowing rifles. The terrain in KY is completely different, mostly hilly and not flat, which would negate many unwise shots. MI only allows rifles in the northern part of the state which is heavily forested and lightly populated. The southern part of the state which is similar to the northern half of IN is shotgun only. Rifles make sense in N. MI and KY for those reasons. They may also make sense in S. IN but not N. IN. Northern Indiana is flat and relatively densely populated in some rural areas. I agree most people are shot at short range and hunter education is great and the chances of getting hit by a random round is pretty low. With that said there are a large number of people that show up opening morning that will unload their guns with poorly aimed shots. Just listen on opening morning. Unless those guys are practicing all the time shooting multiple shots, most are flying out into the woods with little hope of hitting their target. Frankly if they were practicing they wouldn't need more than one or two anyway. I have talked to many farmers in the area I hunt. Many do not hunt and had no idea about this rule change until I told them. They are already worried about hunters in the woods, and they have serious concerns about this and are considering no longer allowing hunting if this goes into effect. I don't blame them. Suddenly their house which wasn't really in range of the woods is now well within the effective kill range from not just their land but a neighbors as well. They don't want to deal with neighbors worried about hunters so they will just say no. This to me is the number one reason to oppose this change as it is already difficult to find farmers who will let non-family members hunt their land. This just gives them another excuse. In addition, there is no need for the change in terms of effectively hunting deer. The stats show that plenty of deer are already killed. Obviously, the rule change isn't needed to control the herd which frankly is in decline already from bag limits that are too liberal. Since the rule is already long standing most hunters in IN have long ago adopted and already have equipment. This is not an access issue. Some talk about the recoil of shotguns preventing many from participating. Again this isn't really an issue preventing access to hunting. Use a 20 gauge or a muzzleloader if that is the case. Modern shotguns and muzzleloaders provide plenty of range and accuracy without having the extreme range of rifles. Some will argue that these rifles are allowed for other animals. This may be true but there is a huge difference between having less than 200 people in the woods at one time shooting at coyotes and 200,000 plus all at one time on opening morning of deer season. Frankly the only real issue and push for this is that those who own rifles want to use them but that isn't enough to make a policy change such as this with only negative impacts that I can see and no real positive ones.

I want to hear a compelling argument how using these rifles will improve safety, not harm access by land owners, improve the deer herd, and overall improve deer hunting.

Thank you for your time,

Seward Horner

Comment Received 2/5/2015 2:31:54 PM

Commenter Name Maria Duffy

City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana

E-Mail Address mariad40207@hotmail.com

Comments I do not support the portion of this rule that permits so-called "high power rifles" to be used for hunting. Given that this rule would apply to urban deer zones, it will endanger the people in my community, and those in rural areas as well. There is no precaution that a bystander can take against an irresponsible hunter with one of these rifles. From miles away one can be hit by a bullet, like the baby in Pennsylvania who will be blind his entire life. Is that the price we are asking families to pay, in order for hunters to be a little more comfortable while shooting? And knowing that hunters themselves are divided makes me even more convinced that this is an inappropriate and dangerous rule that will create unsafe communities, and unsafe leisure activities on public lands even for hunters themselves. I urge you not to approve this rule.

Comment Received 2/5/2015 4:00:00 PM

Commenter Name Kenneth Obendorf

City Versailles County RIPLEY State Indiana

E-Mail Address kobendorf@hotmail.com

Comments As a lifelong hunter, deer, turkey, upland, and living in a rural area as a farmer, I have serious reservations of allowing all high power rifles .243 and larger to hunt deer in Indiana. 30-30 and 45-70 would be probably alright as they are relatively short in range, but allowing cartridges such as .300 Win Mag, 7mm rem mag and similar rounds is asking for trouble in a relatively flat and highly inhabited landscape. I own a 7mm rem mag and would hunt deer with it in the hills, say Kentucky or the hill country of southern Indiana but I and all of my hunting associates think there is no need to change the rifle restrictions beyond adding maybe the 30-30 and 45-70 or similar relatively shorter range rounds. As far as suggesting there would be no difference in the effective range of the newer muzzle loading rifles even those that are capable of using smokeless powder I heartily disagree. Very few marksman would attempt a shot at 500 yards, no ethical hunter would and the heavy slug .44 or larger still would rapidly lose velocity, not so with some of the rifle cartridges that would be allowed. I feel it also would be a disservice to the many upland hunters and agricultural people who also are in the fields during hunting season. Hunter Orange can only be seen so far, far less than the lethal range of these calibers. If it ain't broke don't try to fix it. Thank you

Comment Received 2/5/2015 4:49:41 PM

Commenter Name Josh LaGrange

City Ferdinand County DUBOIS State IN

E-Mail Address jameslagrange@yahoo.com

Comments I believe if the proposal for high-powered rifles is passed we will see a reduction in the quantity and quality of our deer hunting in Indiana. Indiana has struggled to keep up with our neighboring states on the quality of bucks we produce, yet great progress has been made over the last decade and I feel this measure would reverse that trend. I also fear that such a reduction in numbers would occur that would make deer hunting in Indiana of such low quality it would greatly hinder the next generation's participation. I also believe there is a danger in allowing high powered rifles because of the ricochets over flat farm ground. Thank you.

Comment Received 2/5/2015 5:13:40 PM

Commenter Name Robert Daily

City New Albany County FLOYD State Indiana

E-Mail Address dailyrobertj@att.net

Comments The use of shotguns to take deer can, in my opinion, create misplaced shots on the animal due to generally limited range. It is likely that many hunters do not site in a shotgun beyond 75 to 100 yards. Sighting the animal at those distances or beyond is not uncommon nor are completely missed or wounding shots. I believe the use of rifles with greater accuracy and range will result in a more humane hunt.

Comment Received 2/5/2015 7:27:06 PM

Commenter Name Tyler Wessel

City Vallonia County JACKSON State IN

E-Mail Address etwessel@gmail.com

Comments I and many fellow hunters strongly feel the deer herd was way down this year and that any proposed rule changes should keep maintaining acceptable deer bag limits in mind. I agree with the rifle change, yet feel antler less limits should be set lower. I am an avid hunter and trust my legislators can make the bag limit desicion in proper accordance with also allowing rifles to be used. I know this doesn't apply to this rule change but wanted to add that I also wish duck season was later too or stay in later by a week or two. Thank you for considering my thoughts. Tyler Wessel, RN, BSN

Comment Received 2/5/2015 7:46:08 PM

Commenter Name Robert Buston

City French Lick County ORANGE State Indiana

E-Mail Address bbuston1@yahoo.com

Comments I feel its a good time and long over due. Some of the safety concerns I hear are pretty silly. safety is a hunter issue not a fire arms issue. Shotguns and muzzle loaders don't make deer hunting any safer.

Comment Received 2/5/2015 9:10:59 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Swafford

City Lebanon County BOONE State IN

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| <p>E-Mail Address jeffswafford1967@yahoo.com Comments Allow high powered rifles for deer hunting!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Comment Received 2/6/2015 8:08:11 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Susan Hodge City Terre Haute County VIGO State Indiana E-Mail Address hodge4books@gmail.com Comments I am opposed to allowing high powered rifles at any point. Comment Received 2/6/2015 10:52:28 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Brent Bodem City Columbus County BARTHOLOMEW State IN - Indiana E-Mail Address brenttheboat@gmail.com Comments I agree proposed rifle caliber changes should be lawful. If the DNR is worried about the deer herd declining lessen the # of antlerless deer tags which can be bought. The rifle is just another tool and with .358 hoosier now legal and a .308 handgun, why is a .308 rifle not legal? No # of bullets restrictions either, it is a unnecessary and added cost to buy 5 round magazines for the modern sporting rifle platform, plus those using .458 SOCOM now, there are no magazine restrictions. Agree with placing bag limits on bluegill, fisherman catching hundreds a day, seems like it dilutes the population of larger fish. Comment Received 2/6/2015 12:29:03 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name chris ellis City griffith County LAKE State Indiana E-Mail Address chrisellis9382@comcast.net Comments This new law would be a very bad idea. Every property my family and I hunt are open land with lots of homes around witch already make it hard to shoot without risk of an accident. Like most of indiana is very populated with homes open farmland adding great chance for a accident. On top of safty being a large issue we have seen nothing but a decline in deer population. Over the last 5 years it has been hard hunting, for the lack of even seeing deer. Our group of hunters has had around a 50% decrease in bagged deer in the same time frame. Where we were shooting 3-5 deer a year now we are at 1-3 a year. That is with a average of 2 days a week in the field.... not good odds. If this law does pass after the first year we really wont have any deer left. Comment Received 2/7/2015 1:27:54 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name John Bowling City New Castle County HENRY State IN E-Mail Address sgtbowling@cinergymetro.net Comments Straight wall rifle cartridges would be safer, or limiting rifle calibers to 30-30,.35 Rem., .444 and 45-70. This would be a safer compromise and still make for a more effecient hunter. If rifle calibers are allowed, you could limit public lands to shotguns and muzzleloaders for safety, and/or limit rifles to south of US40. As it is, if you don't have 1500 for a wildcat rifle, you are relegated to use an in effecient shotgun or muzzleloader which leads to many wounded animals. That's why I hunt in MO. with a rifle! Comment Received 2/7/2015 6:08:45 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Travis Buckel City English County ORANGE State IN E-Mail Address tibuckel27@yahoo.com Comments I would like to comment that I support the new proposal to allow the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I am traditionally from a state that uses high powered rifles for deer hunting and I would like to see Indiana do the same. Comment Received 2/7/2015 7:54:38 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name John St Myers City McCordsville County HANCOCK State Indiana E-Mail Address gamn1958@gmail.com Comments With a lot of property owners living out of state the change to allow the taking of nuisance animals such as coyotes by verbal authorization will make it much easier for us to hunt them. The only problem I can foresee it the owner withdrawing the authorization without notifying the hunter. Also, how long will the verbal authorization be valid for, should be until revoked by the owner or decided on prior to the hunt. Comment Received 2/7/2015 9:51:09 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Glen T. Bryant City New Albany County FLOYD State IN E-Mail Address bryantgt@yahoo.com Comments Allowing high powered rifles of 243 caliber and larger to hunt deer is a good idea. There are already hunters using these caliber rifles to hunt groundhogs & coyotes. Comment Received 2/7/2015 10:45:23 PM</p> |

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|---|
| <p>Commenter Name Brent Cardinal City Tell City County PERRY State Indiana E-Mail Address brent@brentcardinal.com Comments I am a 68 year old lifelong hunter, shooter, fisherman, 2nd amendment supporter, and I am NOT in favor of allowing centerfire rifles more powerful than the currently allowed rifles which fire handgun cartridges (357, 44Mag, etc.) Where I live in comparatively sparsely populated Perry county, there is hardly anyplace even in the Hoosier National Forest, where one is not within range of a house or farm or cabin, with a 30-06 or similar cartridge. I would also like to comment on game management changes. We have nearly seen the disappearance of the cottontail rabbit in my lifetime due to habitat loss and predation, yet we have extended the hunting season. Why? Same with bobwhite quail. Other states (Kentucky for example) are trying programs to bring back quail populations. Is Indiana doing anything? Lastly, the proposed 25 bag limit on bluegill is puzzling. On every body of water I have fished, the only problem I have ever seen with bluegill is overpopulation resulting in stunted growth and a negative impact on other species. I am also surprised to read of a "limited" season on river otters so soon after the small population was reintroduced, especially with the deer and turkey numbers what they are and those limits still so restrictive. I read that there are more deer in Indiana now than before the area was settled, and I believe they have had a negative impact on the habitat for rabbit and quail. Comment Received 2/8/2015 11:11:44 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Larry Wessel City Solsberry County GREENE State Indiana E-Mail Address dewessel@gmail.com Comments I am in favor of using high powered rifles during fire arms deer hunting season. I am in favor of being able to shoot coyotes year round. You may as well close ruffed grouse season, because they seem to have disappeared. Being a grouse hunter for 30 years, I quit hunting grouse 10 years ago because they seem to be non-existent. I am most definitely against the 25 fish limit on bluegill. The 25 fish limit on redear and crappie is fine. I don't need three fish counters in my boat to keep track of three different species; plus bluegill need to be harvested in number to sustain a balanced population. Thank you, Larry Wessel Life Time Hunting and Fishing License Holder since 1984 Comment Received 2/8/2015 11:47:00 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name DEAN BOWLING City Rockville County PARKE State IN. E-Mail Address bowlingdean51@gmail.com Comments I feel the proposed change allowing high powered rifles in Indiana especially in the flatter farmland areas will indanger people far off from the areas being hunted..a shot across a open bean field that hits frozen dirt and ricochets 2 miles away could potentially kill someone, we all like to think this wont happen but I have seen some of the shots taken by hunters with muzzleloaders and slug guns that were very dangerous..there is no place in Indiana that you can not get within 100 yds of a deer and what weapons that are legal now are more then adequate, we need to keep hunting safe and fun for everyone and I believe adding high power rifles will add a element of danger that there is no need for, Indiana is too populated for the use of these weapons... hopefully our DNR will understand this and make a smart decision.. I have hunted here all my life close to 47 yrs and want to continue until Im no longer able and do not wish to have to worry about some beanfield sniper killing me or another hunter from some unknow distance because hes seen that giant buck and cant risk taking that risky 300-500 yd shot... thank you, Dean Bowling Comment Received 2/8/2015 2:03:23 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Richard K Elbrink Jr City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN E-Mail Address rick@rkeservicesinc.com Comments I would like to see the rifle changes for the coming year. If not for everywhere at least for land owners where hunting pressure is regulated by the owner and less likely to have accidents. These guns are already used for varmitt hunting with out any problems its just that most people realize it. People should have the opportunity to be responsible hunters. Comment Received 2/8/2015 9:03:33 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Brent Headland City Dunkirk County DELAWARE State Indiana E-Mail Address bmheadland@gmail.com</p> |

Comments I feel that Centerfire Rifles in Indiana should be allowed given the current rules. I fail to see how a .243 in a rifle for deer is any more dangerous than a .243 in a pistol or in a rifle hunting for coyotes. Also under current law, several wildcat calibers have been developed to allow for true rifle performance in a cartridge that meets the current restrictions. I feel that the law needs to be consistent. Either rifles should be allowed for Deer Hunting or the current laws should be changed to limit the equipment allowed for coyotes, and remove centerfire rifle calibers from being legal in a handgun, or from being legal under the current rifle restrictions.

Comment Received 2/9/2015 3:26:20 PM

Commenter Name Chris Werner

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address wernpup22@hotmail.com

Comments I support rule changes for allowing centerfire rifles .243 or larger to be used in Indiana to harvest deer. I feel there would be no additional safety concerns as long as general firearms safety is followed at all times. I feel this change will allow hunters to take more ethical shots on deer. There is not much difference between someone who loads a .44 mag cartridge themselves at home using extra powder or using 150gr powder in a muzzleloader, the range of the bullet is similar. .243 cal is more than adequate for whitetail, given that people successfully harvest elk in other states with this caliber. I support the projected rule changes and feel I will allow hunting in Indiana to be more enjoyable.

Comment Received 2/9/2015 3:45:28 PM

Commenter Name doug feazel

City attica **County** FOUNTAIN **State** in

E-Mail Address feazel.doug@hotmail.com

Comments I am for the proposed high powered rifle addition to the deer firearms season

Comment Received 2/9/2015 3:46:57 PM

Commenter Name Bob Young

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address young.youngwr@gmail.com

Comments I support the rifle cartridge amendment for deer hunting. I feel it will actually be safer that with shotgun slugs.

Comment Received 2/9/2015 4:23:53 PM

Commenter Name GLENN MCINTOSH

City SCOTTSBURG **County** SCOTT **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address glennstone@hughes.net

Comments I think it would be to dangerous for high powered rifles to be used for Dear hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 2/9/2015 4:50:26 PM

Commenter Name Shannon Wood

City Laurel **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address swood@fraleyandschilling.com

Comments Against the proposal of high powered rifle use during deer season. Most IN hunters can not afford the newer models of muzzle loaders and less hunters in the woods. 2014, I saw hunters using pistol rounds shoot at deer on to my property and the deer were under my wife's tree stand who was not in the woods that day. wulad

Comment Received 2/9/2015 8:32:06 PM

Commenter Name Carl Cloud

City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** IN

E-Mail Address gacloud@comcast.net

Comments rule 9-3-3 will make a hunter more effective taking a deer. Stats show no increased danger with rifle use. Thank You

Comment Received 2/9/2015 10:58:08 PM

Commenter Name Robert Baker

City Veedersburg **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tiggertivio2001@yahoo.com

Comments Use of long range rifle cartridges will create safety issues and lead to an increase in non recovered deer due to the shooter over estimating his ability. Indiana currently has very generous regulations governing firearm equipment. PLEASE VOTE NO!

Comment Received 2/10/2015 4:57:56 AM

Commenter Name Michael Evans

City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address heavyevans@aol.com

Comments I strongly support the adoption of these rule changes.

Comment Received 2/10/2015 8:07:49 PM

Commenter Name joey murphy

City kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address deer41mag@gmail.com

Comments I'm not going to be able to make it to the public hearings so this is the best I'll be able to do. I vote that large straight wall calibers such as the 45-60, 45-70, 45-90, 50-70, 444, 450 marlin, etc. become legal for deer in Indiana (statewide). the reason I believe that is because even the best loads in those calibers, such as hornady's leverrevolution series, can't go very far. the leverrevolution 45-70 round is a 300 yard load but past 300 it begins dropping FAST. other than that, most loads in calibers like that are 200 yard loads at best.

bottle neck centerfire calibers should be legalized on a probationary status. legalize them statewide this year and if nothing goes wrong, they get fully legalized. if it does backfire, the large straight wall calibers mentioned earlier are still legal but bottleneck calibers wont be.

Comment Received 2/11/2015 8:52:54 AM

Commenter Name Tylan Miller
City Osceola **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Small Acre Hunting
E-Mail Address tylanmiller@gmail.com
Comments Dear Sirs and Madams,

First 5,000 character limit is simply not enough space or time to express thoughts on this matter in depth but I will attempt to do my best.

I've been a whitetail hunter ever since my parents let me hit the woods with my first firearm purchase...now years later I typically am found throughout the entire deer season chasing whitetails with my bow. However, let me put my personal bias being a bow hunter aside for a second and tackle this "proposed rifle" idea clinically if you will.

Can rifles be used and used safely in the State of Indiana to harvest whitetail deer? Yes, that much cannot nor should it be argued. After all, countless hunters hit the woods throughout the year with high powered centerfired rifles and chase coyotes or simply "target practice" in their fields, woods or yards.

I'm not stating however that proper and safe practices occur by all those individuals but they do prove HPRs can and have been used safely without many injuries or fatalities that I know of across the state directly correlated with the HPRs.

I do however want strong consideration given to the aftermath "if" HPRs were to be allowed. It is 100% a true statement that with modern rifled shotguns and modern muzzleloaders there are deer hunters already shooting deer at or near HPR type distances with effective killing potential...so that isn't the issue. Also in the same breath many studies have proven that slugs from shotguns (the most predominately used firearm in Indiana for deer) actually retain their shape and weight more upon ricochets or after passing through game more than projectiles fired from HPRs...so that also is not an issue to consider in approving HPRs.

The issues I have is two-fold. For a moment lets say that HPRs don't get approved, the state MUST stop sending a mixed message and erase any centerfire cartridges from the legal list by eliminating the use of them out of pistols. This causes extreme confusion and "cutting corners" in the regulations every year by hunters hitting the Indiana woods and fields. Sorry, but the fact you can't use a .243 cartridge from a rifle but you can from a pistol is 100% the most asinine thing ever and causes the state to look like uneducated suits that have no clue what they are doing. Please don't allow this to continue if HPRs don't pass.

If they do pass, which I feel they will as I know lobbyist and organizations that have been fighting for this year in and year out have probably worn you thin...I have a concern in this scenario as well. Currently in Indiana most hunters are your "weekend warrior" variety and due to this don't spend an arm and a leg on their firearm of choice. Meaning many hit the woods with a cheap Muzzleloader or shotgun that makes a 100 yard shot not a chip shot by any stretch of the imagination let alone a 200 yard. Working at a gun shop part time it amazes me the amount of deer hunters that hit the woods with smooth bore shotguns...which lack true accuracy potential out past say 60-80 yards most hunters would deem worthy of a humane kill.

If HPRs pass though...those same hunters who don't want to spend over \$300 on a rifled shotgun or good muzzleloader will now be able to walk into any gun shop pick up a sub \$200 single shot Rossi or H&R rifle chambered in a round which has the distance potential that is unrivaled by any shotgun or muzzleloader on the market...this is where safety could become a concern potentially. It isn't that the guns themselves are more dangerous, it is the potential users that hold a higher chance of danger...

However, that in itself shouldn't concern the passing of the new regulation...as I do feel it can and will pass. The issue though is instead of the DNR/State constantly thinking of ways to change the laws, how about we do something incredible; Educate the hunters more and enforce the laws in place more. Stop investing any money in research about if the current laws are working and start helping the hunting community by giving more assistance to local DNR who are stretched incredibly thin and unable to meet the demands of all the poaching/trespassing/illegal hunting activity calls they receive. Hunting in Indiana isn't going to get better by any law you pass or change...it will only get better if the hunters in Indiana become more educated to proper hunting tactics, herd management AND ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE both internally within their ranks and from the state (DNR).

I have so much more to share...but sadly my thoughts are getting jumbled and my blood pressure rising as I see my character limitation is vanishing rapidly.

Good day and in closing; change whatever laws you want...but educating the hunters and STRONGER penalties for illegal hunting activities are the only things that are going to make the hunting community in Indiana better.

Comment Received 2/11/2015 9:02:18 AM

Commenter Name Robert W. Muncie

City Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bob@bobandjanemuncie.com

Comments I am in favor the proposed change in legal rifles for deer hunting. I am a lifetime license holder.

Comment Received 2/11/2015 9:19:38 AM

Commenter Name james barrell

City lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address critter1985@comcast.net

Comments I hope they pass the use of high power rifles for deer season.

Comment Received 2/11/2015 10:51:03 AM

Commenter Name Clark Miller

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address miller_clark@hotmail.com

Comments Although I generally support the legalization of rifles for deer hunting in IN, I believe there should be a maximum or upper limit on power to offer an additional measure of safety. High velocity calibers such as .270, .30-06 and any of the various Magnums "shoot flatter" (i.e. send a slug significantly further) than mid-power cartridges such as .30-30, .300 Savage or 7.62x39. Such a rule could be accomplished by limiting legal calibers to a muzzle velocity of 2500 ft/sec and requiring a bullet weight of at least 100 grains.

Comment Received 2/11/2015 4:11:08 PM

Commenter Name Gery Meyer

City Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address geryam52@gmail.com

Comments Do not allow the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. It appears that safety is no longer an issue to the IDNR. The current legal weapons are plenty sufficient to hunt deer in this state, why endanger public safety.

Comment Received 2/11/2015 11:57:13 PM

Commenter Name Richard Harrold

City Akron **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address harroldrvc@frontier.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing high power rifles for deer hunting. I don't think there is much difference between them and the single shot handguns used that are chambered for rifle cartridges or modern muzzle loading rifles or shotguns with rifled barrels. All can be dangerous at long range if used improperly.

Comment Received 2/12/2015 10:16:07 AM

Commenter Name matt soliday

City valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** IN

E-Mail Address msoliday2096@gmail.com

Comments I hunt deer in Porter and Marshall counties. Rifles should not be allowed to hunt deer. Shotguns with sabot slugs are accurate enough for longer range shooting. Muzzleloaders, even the most accurate, will not go to 500 yards. You need to ask whoever claims that for video proof. Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and upper Michigan have different terrain and populations than Indiana that make it better for rifles there. Thank you for reading my comments.

Comment Received 2/12/2015 10:32:34 AM

Commenter Name Stephen Sparks

City Winslow **County** PIKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sparksofpik@frontier.com

Comments I am for the proposed change regarding center fired rifles

Comment Received 2/12/2015 6:46:40 PM

Commenter Name Cindy Sparks

City Winslow **County** PIKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sparksofpik@frontier.com

Comments I am in favor of the change for rifles

Comment Received 2/12/2015 6:49:17 PM

Commenter Name Randy Sparks

City Princeton **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address randallmci@hotmail.com

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| <p>Comments I am in favor of the proposed change for rifles Comment Received 2/12/2015 6:52:27 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Hunter McCormick City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address mccormick.hunter96@gmail.com Comments I am in favor of the proposed change for rifles Comment Received 2/12/2015 6:54:50 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jamie McCormick City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address mccormick.jamie75@gmail.com Comments I am in favor of the proposed changes regarding rifles Comment Received 2/12/2015 6:58:05 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Matthew Sparks City Princeton County GIBSON State Indiana E-Mail Address randallmci@hotmail.com Comments I am in favor of the proposed changes Comment Received 2/12/2015 7:00:03 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Peter Crawford City Albion County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address pcrawford@wieseusa.com Comments I do believe using rifle cartridges will benefit hunting deer in a positive way, but I would prefer the rifle choices to be limited to single shot, or bolt action only. I don't believe it is necessary, or beneficial to use a long range cartridge with a semiautomatic rifle, but I have to admit, I am on the fence with using a lever action. I believe we need to do this right by promoting the idea of making one accurate shot, not several hurried ones. Comment Received 2/12/2015 11:04:38 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Joe Schott City Sunman County DEARBORN State Indiana E-Mail Address Schott.jt@hotmail.com Comments I am not sure why we need to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting. For one they say you can shoot a deer with a muzzleloader at 500 yards. This I would like to see. Another reason it is not a good idea, is you will have more hunters shooting deer on other people's property. Most hunters hunting in Indiana do not have over a 250 yard shot. This rule is unnecessary. If a hunter wants to use a rifle then go to Kentucky. I guarantee by adopting this rule it would not benefit wildlife conservation. If it's not broke don't fix it. Comment Received 2/13/2015 6:27:57 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Eric Engelhardt City Bremen County ST. JOSEPH State In. E-Mail Address ericshoney@icloud.com Comments I believe you should allow hunting with rifles for deer from what I have read where other states have changed to allow it there was no change in safety and I think could be more humane Comment Received 2/13/2015 11:36:26 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Darrell Stilger City Crandall County HARRISON State Indiana E-Mail Address darrellstilger@frontier.com Comments The turtle rules the daily limit is to small and the size is to big. The best eating turtle is the 8 or 9 pound your size would be 16 pounds or bigger. I catch turtle hand and 4 per day is bad limit Thank you for taking my comment Darrell Stilger Crandall Indiana Comment Received 2/13/2015 1:54:12 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name gerry peters City dana County VERMILLION State in E-Mail Address gmoney1954@sbcglobal.net Comments NO high powered rifles!!!! Unless in a rifle only area!! Comment Received 2/13/2015 2:06:08 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Paul Cannon City newburgh County WARRICK State IN E-Mail Address cannonp2000@yahoo.com Comments I am against using high powered rifles. There is a lack of common sense with this proposal. I don't think people</p> |

realize how far and hard these bullets travel. Recently, a sporting goods store suggested selling ammunition (7.62x54R) to shoot crows. Can you imagine?

Comment Received 2/14/2015 2:26:10 PM

Commenter Name Paul Hall

City Lynnville **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pwhall5555@frontier.com

Comments I fully support the changes to acceptable rifle cartridges for deer hunting during gun season.

Thanks

Paul Hall

812-202-8899

Comment Received 2/15/2015 9:08:06 AM

Commenter Name Kevin Farrar

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Endlesspursuitoutdoors@yahoo.com

Comments I do NOT support the use of rifles in the state of Indiana ..

Comment Received 2/16/2015 7:59:50 AM

Commenter Name Robert L. Olinske

City Pleasant Lake **County** STEUBEN **State** In.

E-Mail Address sherono@loci.net

Comments I believe using a high powered deer rifle in Ind. is uncalled for. If a person cannot kill a deer with the guns already allowed something some thing is wrong with that hunter. In the area I live in and all the hunters in this area I think it would be a BIG mistake.

Comment Received 2/16/2015 11:29:16 AM

Commenter Name james bell

City evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** indiana

E-Mail Address abcsbell@insightbb.com

Comments I see no reason to legalize high power rifles for deer hunting. In my view this will only increase wounded deer due to hunters attempting longer range shots than they are capable of. Where can they go in Indiana to sight in long range shots? Not many places that I am aware of. This could also endanger the public if careless hunters attempt longer range shots. This rule change would only benefit the firearms industry

Comment Received 2/16/2015 6:23:56 PM

Commenter Name Tim Smith

City Liberty **County** UNION **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) - Select -

E-Mail Address tjs4rvfun@aol.com

Comments I 100% support this rule change of including rifle case length over 1.16" and .243 cal or larger. I am aware of the comments against this change and find the claims unfounded. Many of us hunters who employ these rifles for other types of hunting such as coyotes and target shooting are already aware of safety issues and in other states where this law is already in place the sky has not fallen as some would claim if this change took place. Please approve this measure.

Comment Received 2/17/2015 10:03:53 AM

Commenter Name Larry Browne

City Fairland **County** SHELBY **State** IN

E-Mail Address Patgq@aol.com

Comments I am 72 years old and have been an avid fisherman of bluegill and other panfish in Indiana since I was a young child. I have observed the fishing habits of others, and find that the average person rarely catches an abundance of bluegill and othe sunfish. I have not noticed a decline in the number of bluegill in the lakes and waterways I have fished. I strongly object to a chnage in the rule that would limit daily bag limits for these fish when the current rule has been in place for 50 years with no harm. I am interested in knowing what technology has led to alarm about the numbers of sunfish currently being taken, and who is endangering the future of the species using this technology. I would also like to see the research the DNR had based this concern on. Thank you for considering my input.

Comment Received 2/17/2015 10:37:54 AM

Commenter Name Stephen Rhoades

City Chandler **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address trhoades@erlinc.com

Comments I don't see any need for high powered rifles. I only hunt the lower portion of the state and don't see any area that there would be a need for them.

It could promote people who think they can shoot at something at 300 yards ,doing so when they shouldn't shoot at anything from 50 yards. Because the gun will shoot further doesn't made you a better hunter.

Comment Received 2/17/2015 2:34:16 PM

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| <p>Commenter Name Bill Norton City Upland County GRANT State Indiana E-Mail Address billnorton@walnutcreekarchery.com Comments I am not in favor of allowing high powered rifles in Indiana for deer hunting. Comment Received 2/17/2015 11:50:12 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name David McDonald City Sharpsville County TIPTON State Indiana E-Mail Address mcdonaldx1@bluemarble.net Comments I don't see anything good that could come out of this. There will be a lot more wounded deer, people will be shooting deer on other peoples property!! needless to say how far the bullet will travel. If someone wants a rifle to hunt with there is the .358 Hoosier available now. People are gonna get hurt maybe even killed. Leave it alone everything is fine the way it is!!!! Indiana Is not Montana!!!! Get real this is a crazy idea. Comment Received 2/18/2015 8:32:13 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Chuck and Janet Botsko City Gentryville County SPENCER State Indiana E-Mail Address dogwoodhill02@gmail.com Comments Dear Natural Resources Commission,</p> <p>We are responding to express our opposition to the consideration of expanding the use of long range rifles for deer hunting. Living in rural Spencer County, we already have to take extra care during our hunting seasons. Always being aware of who is hunting, and where they might be located before we go out to enjoy our own place. Living on 200+ acres will no longer be enough of a "buffer" if long range rifles are legalized for all deer seasons.</p> <p>Over 85,000 deer are annually harvested in Indiana. Why would expanding the use of long range rifles be considered? Where in southern Indiana would the ideal place to safely use such a capability? Making these types of rifles acceptable for use poses great danger to innocent people. How many weekend hunters are already breaking our hunting rules and regulations? You know that there are going to be injuries and possibly deaths from the expansion of the use of long range rifles. How many injuries and deaths have been deemed acceptable?</p> <p>Just because some Indiana hunters have these types of rifles doesn't mean that the safety of others needs to be compromised. Once again, we are NOT in favor of the proposed legalization of long range rifles for all deer seasons.</p> <p>Sincerely, Chuck and Janet Botsko</p> <p>12540 N. Base Road Gentryville, IN 47537</p> <p>1-812-362-8398 Comment Received 2/18/2015 10:35:49 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Steve W Heltzel City Kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana E-Mail Address sheltzel@romecity-in.org Comments I am objecting to the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. With the current use of rifled shotguns and modern scoped muzzle loaders that have ranges of 150 to 200 yards I see no reason to adopt the use of these rifles. The part of Indiana that I hunt (Noble County) is to heavily populated to justify the dangers that will come with that. This just opens the door for all different kinds of weapons to be used. This is supposed to be hunting not war. If you can't get within 100 yards of a deer possibly then you should go to one of these confined deer hunting establishments where you can shoot a deer, who is used to people feeding it at 10 feet and call yourself a hunter. I will soon be 65 and have hunted deer since I was 11 with my uncles. The only season that I missed was the one when I was in Vietnam. I am basically a meat hunter but with the adoption of the one buck rule (great decision) now gives me the choice of passing on smaller bucks in hopes that a larger one will come through. I get what meat I need with a bow and a pistol all within 50 yards, sometimes a muzzle loader if I absolutely need to, I see no reason for anyone who calls himself/herself having to hunt with a high powered rifle in a heavily populated area. Comment Received 2/18/2015 1:36:00 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jerald Jones City Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana E-Mail Address jmjones3913@sbcglobal.net Comments I support the amendment on using rifles for deer hunting as I think that they are just as safe as a shotgun or muzzleloader. Rifles are more accurate and has less recoil. Due to the extended range of rifles, I would suggest that a hunter should be at least 18 years of age and all hunters should have approval from the landowner's approval of using rifles. I would like the DNR to consider eliminating spotlighting all together as that practice allows violators to disturb the normal feeding habits of wildlife. Kentucky has already done so and has greatly reduced the illegal taking of animals. This practice</p> |

of spotlighting has too many negatives to remain viable. Thanks

Comment Received 2/19/2015 10:59:49 AM

Commenter Name Thomas Hendryx

City Cedar Lake **County** LAKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address bigcat94@att.net

Comments The "one buck rule" is the one good thing that we have left; too many does are being killed and high powered rifles will just make the situation worse. Hunting should be a sport not a slaughter.

Comment Received 2/19/2015 2:11:46 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Stailey

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** In.

E-Mail Address kdstailey@gmail.com

Comments We are already hunting with pistols .243 Dia. & larger, I see no difference between a pistol & a rifle from a safety viewpoint & several surrounding states have not seen an increase in hunting accidents by allowing rifles. Also, under current rifle restrictions, you can still legally shoot the .358 WSSM @ 2600-2700 fps MVI So why should hunters be forced to buy that expensive wildcat cartridge when most of us already have guns in our safes that we could use to deer hunt with? I see no reason not to make this change!

Comment Received 2/19/2015 2:58:12 PM

Commenter Name DEAN WIDMANN

City beech grove **County** MARION **State** indiana

E-Mail Address deanacc@sbcglobal.net

Comments FIRE ARMS SEASON, TOO LONG AND YOU START IT IN THE HEAT OF THE RUTT, MOVE TO DEC 1ST OR 1ST SAT OF DEC TO THE 2ND SUNDAY OF DEC, ALSO IMPLEMENT AN EARN A BUCK PROGRAM, IN COUNTIES THAT HAVE A HIGHER DOE TO BUCK RATIO, ALSO ANTLER RESTRICTIONS ON BUCKS IN COUNTIES THAT HAVE LOWER DEER COUNTS, START ARCHERY SEASON 2-WEEKS SOONER,, DEPREDATION PERMITS SHOULD BE MONITERED AND MORE INVESTIGATION IF THEY ARE NEEDED, MUZZLE LOADER SEASON IS TOO LONG, AND SHOULD ONLY BE FOR A WEEK A SAT TO THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, AND NO SPECIAL ANTLERLESS SEASON LATE IN THE YEAR, FIRE ARMS NO HIGH CALIBER!, I FEEL THAT USING MINERALS TO INCREASE THE HEALTH OF A HEARD FOR QDMA SHOULD BE LEGAL, DURING HUNTING SEASON, THERE IS NO PROOF THAT A MINERAL WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO HARVEST A DEER, THEY MOSTLEY USE THEM AT NIGHT, AND NOT SO MUCH LATER IN THE SEASON THEY IGNORE THEM,, ANTLERED DEER SHOULD BE CHECKED IN AT A DEER CHECK STATION, ESPECIALLY DURING ARCHERY SEASON!, ITS TOO EASY FOR A DIRT BAG TO SHOOT WITH A GUN AND STICK AN ARROW IN IT AND PHONE CHECK IT!, I FEEL THAT qdma SHOULD BE TAUGHT AT ALL LEVELS ESPECIALLY IN FARMING COMMUNITYS, IT SHOULD HELP EVERY ONE GET INVOLVED NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR SMALL A PROPERTY IS

Comment Received 2/20/2015 10:27:35 AM

Commenter Name Scott Keller

City Westville **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address smk1062@aol.com

Comments I think for the safety of every hunter, especially on public property, you should limit case length with rifle cartridges. You should limit it to either 2.3 in or 2.6 in, that would include many traditional deer hunting cartridges. Or to make it much simpler just pick the 10 most popular deer cartridges and be done.

Comment Received 2/20/2015 4:55:21 PM

Commenter Name James Cole

City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** IN

E-Mail Address jecole26@sbcglobal.net

Comments I do not think cartridges allowed for deer hunting should be expanded to include high velocity/long range rifle cartridges unless these cartridges are restricted to unpopulated areas like the Crane NWSC. There are too few places in Indiana where house are not within the range of nearly horizontally fired rifle bullets. If the deer population needs further curbing then extend the current gun season so hunters have more time to harvest a deer.

Comment Received 2/20/2015 9:28:29 PM

Commenter Name Billy B. Lambert

City New Salisbury **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) None

E-Mail Address mpyxbok4644@gmail.com

Comments If Indiana is going to pass a law on using High Power Rifles to hunt Deer. It should not be bigger than a 30/30 are with in that range. These deer hunters wants to use a 30.06 or a 270 or an AR 15 with a 30 round clip. Witch is gone to get a lot of hunters killed I have been in the woods when it sounds like Viet Nam. An some hunters if they had a 30 round clip they would keep shooting till the Deer went over the other Hill. Some would sit up on a field 300 yards wide and not know what was on the other side. A shoot at a Deer across on the other side just because someone told them they could hill a Deer at that distance. This is not my first Dance I have been around since Indiana had a ONE Day Hunt-Three Day Hunt-Five Day Hunt all the way up till now. I have seen about all of Indiana terrain and I haven't seen any where a 30.06 or 270 could be used. A lot of hunter would be using a AR-15, Lord help us if that happen.

Comment Received 2/20/2015 10:54:24 PM

Commenter Name Julie kamboures

City Eckerty **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jkamthomaskitty@yahoo.com

Comments I am opposed to the rule which allows high powered rifles. I do not think it is safe. I live very close to Patoka Lake and I can hear gun fire from the park and surrounding area. I live in Patoka Meadows subdivision and I regularly walk around the neighborhood, if this new rule passes I will be afraid to walk around my neighborhood. Please do not allow this rule change.

Comment Received 2/22/2015 2:35:59 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Wagner

City Chandler **County** WARRICK **State** IN

E-Mail Address jbwagner50@gmail.com

Comments I am strongly against the use of rifle cartridges for deer hunting in Southern Indiana. We live in a fairly flat rural area with few trees half mile from Pigeon Creek. A shot could be easily be fired from the creek lowland at a 30-45 degree angle and travel toward our house and yard area and quite a ways beyond.

Comment Received 2/23/2015 2:52:52 PM

Commenter Name Randy McKeever

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address randy.mckeever@gmail.com

Comments I support the new rifle law changes 100%. I believe this rule going into effect would benefit in numerous ways. Would help bring in more hunters that do not have a shotgun or muzzleloader which means more money for the state, and would reduce hunters from taking long shots with a gun that should not be shot at that distance preventing countless wounded deer.

Comment Received 2/23/2015 4:30:37 PM

Commenter Name Cole Williams

City Cambridge City **County** HENRY **State** IN

E-Mail Address cole@nlc.net

Comments I strongly urge you NOT to allow hunting with high powered rifles. As a farmer in the field it is not safe in our area with shot guns. People hunting without knowledge of their surroundings, firing high powered rifles where bullets can travel over a mile is not safe anywhere. Please reconsider this action. We have had an incident in our area where a high powered rifle was shot through a house wall and injured a person.

Comment Received 2/23/2015 6:40:56 PM

Commenter Name Ed Shreve

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address edshreve@yahoo.com

Comments I believe that high powered rifles may be safe in parts of the state with irregular terrain, but in the flat areas the extended range combined with ease of multiple shots could pose a danger. A muzzle loader hunter may hesitate to shoot at a deer that is almost out of range because of the time involved in reloading. With a repeating rifle, the second, third, or fourth shots become easy to take, possibly encouraging carelessness. Many shotguns use open sights or low powered scopes, which limit the practical range at which a deer can be sighted.

Comment Received 2/24/2015 1:13:09 AM

Commenter Name Jeffrey Dunn

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jeffrey.dunn742@gmail.com

Comments I began hunting in Indiana and will be moving to Indianapolis in August in time for Indiana deer season in 2015. I support the rifle proposal for calibers .243 and larger as I believe it will provide more safe options and the herd can be appropriately managed through county limits and season lengths.

Comment Received 2/24/2015 9:02:54 AM

Commenter Name Bret Landrum

City Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address blandrum40@hotmail.com

Comments As an avid hunter and resident near public hunting areas I strongly disagree with allowing high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting. I hear of reports every year of someone putting a slug or ML bullet thru a barn or house in my county and have heard several reports of high powered rifles doing the same thing in the county beside me during coyote season. I hate to see what would happen if someone tries a 400 yard shot with a rifle round that can ricochet. We have several groups in our area that like to push deer. It is relatively safe because the weapons have limited range, but again the longer range guns and the ricochets add serious dangers to residents in the area. Indiana is a highly populated state; in many areas we don't have room or acreage to allow these types of firearms especially in the top 2/3 of the state. You argue

that rifles may be used in other seasons, which is true, but the number of hunters for those other seasons does not equal the amount of deer hunters there are in the state or the number of new hunters that will emerge with the new weapons being legal. In fact that number isn't even close! You also argue that muzzleloaders can shoot 500 yards. How many people own this type of muzzleloader? How many people can make a 500 yard shot? Not many. Plus a muzzleloader bullet loses a lot of energy as soon as it hits something where a rifle will continue for a long period with distances unknown since they can and will ricochet. You also discuss legality in nearby states and I have to question whether you have been to these states. The amount of timber in these states compared to Indiana is astonishing. Hills and trees stop long yardage guns. I live in an area that is flat for miles and is close to public hunting ground. I have heard the shots before dark and have visually witnessed guys shooting directly at my house. The only reason the bullets didn't hit home was because of the caliber and type. Had those been high powered rifles me, a family member, or a neighbor may not be here. I encourage you to drive around public hunting areas during firearms season and witness the amount of hunters who are hunting. SAFETY SHOULBE BE NUMBER ONE! Another concern is the state of our deer herd, it has been confirmed by our state biologist that our deer herd numbers are down, and our buck kill dropped 5000 animals last season. Allowing weapons that can reach farther and allow many more opportunities for existing hunters not to mention new hunters will drop the heard even further. Deer numbers are down in my area and have been for a few years now. Now you want to put several more weapons capable of shooting 500 yards or more into the hands of people who will shoot at anything, at any distance, no matter what the terrain. Keep Indiana residents and hunters safe and do not allow the rifle limit to drop to a minimum of .243.

Comment Received 2/24/2015 9:44:06 AM

Commenter Name Chris Greasel

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

E-Mail Address cgreasel@fastmail.fm

Comments Great proposal to allow .243 dia. rifles and above for deer hunting in Indiana beginning in 2015.. The current regulations already allow for using center-fire rifles using cartridge cases that do not exceed 1.8 inches. Rounds such as the .358 Hoosier, .35 Rem. with case trimmed to 1.8", 45-70 Govt. with case trimmed to 1.8" already allow hunters with enough money and skill to build custom guns and ammunition and hunt deer in Indiana. Time is now to allow the average man that can't afford to buy such custom guns or skill to build such custom ammunition to hunt deer on equal terms. Welcome change for all Indiana deer hunters. Thanks, and good hunting.

Comment Received 2/24/2015 1:28:58 PM

Commenter Name David J. Ennis

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ennistreeandlawn@gmail.com

Comments It's about time. Thank you for finally making this proposal legitimate. I hunt in Kentucky opening day of rifle season. People keep saying it isn't as populated as it is in Indiana but they are not taking into account the number of people that come in out of state to hunt. I know the sound of a rifle will likely travel much further than a shotgun but I hear at least twice the gun shots opening day in Kentucky than I do locally opening day in Monroe County. Many of which are very close to me. I never feel like I am in any more danger because the statistics and history is there to back it up. I feel i should also mention that the terrain and population where I hunt at in Kentucky is almost identical to that of Monroe County other than the actual township of Bloomington. Rifles are just as safe as any other firearm.

Comment Received 2/24/2015 2:17:43 PM

Commenter Name Eric Dangelo

City Garrett **County** DEKALB **State** IN

E-Mail Address dangelloeric@yahoo.com

Comments please do not allow the rifle change. It is too dangerous, and will result in innocent people being shot by accident. There are too many houses, roads, and flat land that are not suitable for the rifle change. I am from Pennsylvania, and understand how dangerous high powered rifles can be. The 44 long rifle is plenty for what hunters need in Indiana. Thank you.

Comment Received 2/25/2015 7:26:49 AM

Commenter Name TIMOTHY HILDEBRAND

City DEMOTTE **County** JASPER **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address teeny1@netnitco.net

Comments I DONOT WANT HIGH POWERED RIFELS TO BE LEAGEL FOR DEER HUNTING IN INDIANA

Comment Received 2/25/2015 9:03:55 AM

Commenter Name Jon Hall

City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jwhall@bsu.edu

Comments I absolutely support the amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-2 which would allow rifles firing high powered cartridges such as .243 Win, .308 Win, 30-06 Springfield etc. as they are much more humane in harvesting whitetail than the currently allowed equipment (see 'Terminal Performance' of high-velocity bullets vs. currently-allowed shotgun slugs or muzzle loading slugs). Further muzzle loader technology has advanced in a way that makes their ballistic performance (not necessarily terminal performance) very similar to high powered rifles. Specifically the new Remington 700 Ultimate (which claims to be accurate - and effective on deer-sized game - out to 300 - 400 yards) and the Savage 10ML-II which is capable of using smokeless powder (effectively making it a high powered rifle that is classified as a muzzle loader).

Comment Received 2/25/2015 9:10:28 AM

Commenter Name jim slayton

City demotte **County** NEWTON **State** indiana

Organization (optional) oak ridge archery club

E-Mail Address marlon_oakridge@mchsi.com

Comments I am president of the the Oak Ridge Arhcery Club in Wheatfield, In. Our members are VERY MUCH against the proposed rule change on rifle cartridge length. We do not want to see the use of .243 rifles used for deer hunting. We truly believe this will open a can of worms that should never be opened. The safety issues along with the amount of deer wounded will be extravagant. Our club does not want to see this passed! Thank you for your time.

Comment Received 2/25/2015 1:20:12 PM

Commenter Name Todd Paterson

City New Haven **County** ALLEN **State** In

E-Mail Address todd.paterson@frontier.com

Comments In regards to the proposed expansion of the legal rifle cartridges for deer hunting. I am strongly opposed to the expansion of the calibers such as .308 and 30.06 , that are not only capable of traveling much further distances but are available in AR semi-automatic platform. Both of which in my opinion make them unsafe in the state of Indiana. I currently hold a Indiana Lifetime Comprehensive Hunting License and have been hunting in Indiana for over 35 years. I have hunted in western states and Canada for different big game species. Larger calibers do have there place but flat and populated Indiana is not one of those places. Not only would they be unsafe , it would also substantially reduce the deer herd which would result in negatively affecting the deer hunting experience in Indiana. I have not talked with a single responsible hunter that is in favor of this expansion. Please keep our deer herd at a healthy level and more importantly our people safe.

Sincerely Todd Paterson

Comment Received 2/25/2015 5:04:32 PM

Commenter Name Mike Falck

City Wanatah **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mikesfalck@hotmail.com

Comments I support the rule change allowing high power rifles for deer hunting.

Comment Received 2/25/2015 10:10:35 PM

Commenter Name Michel Martin

City Wakarusa **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mikesue.martin@gmail.com

Comments I have cattle out on pasture and am concerned about having long range rifles being allowed for deer hunting and cattle being accidentally shot. we also have roads every mile in our area and it greatly increases the possibility of accidental shooting. I am a deer hunter and the current legal firearms are more than adequate to harvest deer.

Comment Received 2/26/2015 6:20:30 AM

Commenter Name Tim Schultz

City DeMotte **County** JASPER **State** in

E-Mail Address tims@netnitco.net

Comments I approve of the rifle cartidges for deer hunting, But would suggest not the magnum cartridges

Comment Received 2/26/2015 3:28:18 PM

Commenter Name tony slayton

City wheatfield **County** JASPER **State** in

Organization (optional) oak ridge archery club

E-Mail Address whitetail.marlon@gmail.com

Comments I think the minimum size of .357 is sufficient enough. Why reduce it down to .243? I see more deer wounded from guys that think they can shoot 200 plus yards with the newer ammo. Please reconsider this proposal. In the southern part of the state where more hills exist, it may be justifiable, but in my area where the land is flat, I am concerned of the safety factor. Thank you.

Comment Received 2/26/2015 4:54:27 PM

Commenter Name dan bush

City seymour **County** JACKSON **State** indiana

E-Mail Address gobblergetter@cinergymetro.net

Comments I like the ability to hunt deer with rifles. I already hunt with the 358. hoosier round which is a smaller version of a high powered rifle.plus you can already hunt varmints and hogs with these guns now! also my sister wants to start hunting deer with a rifle the 243. would be prefect and not kick as much as guns that are legal now.

Comment Received 2/26/2015 5:27:31 PM

Commenter Name Kenny Perkins

City north vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** indiana

E-Mail Address kenny.perkins@tiem.toyota-industries.com

Comments i would like to see the .234 or bigger added to the firearms season and the number of doe tags set lower

Comment Received 2/26/2015 6:39:27 PM

Commenter Name Michael Wright
City Anderson County MADISON State IN
E-Mail Address mgwright_77@yahoo.com

Comments I think the proposed changes to allow additional caliber of rifles is a great idea, please approve this new rule.

Comment Received 2/27/2015 8:40:29 AM

Commenter Name Anthony B. Walsh
City Unionville County MONROE State Indiana
Organization (optional) Indiana resident
E-Mail Address B.walsh.in@gmail.com

Comments In regards to (LSA #14-453) Amends various rules within 312 IAC 9:

As a lifelong resident of Indiana who's family residence is adjacent to State Forest on two bordering lines, I am asking, pleading even, to not allow any amendments to allow the use of " high caliber rifles " for the purposes of taking a deer. In having instances over the years of "over shots" near my family's residence, this scares and worries me more! In being a deer hunter myself I see no sense in this, as we already HAVE several varied, sufficient choices of calibers to use !

From a safety standpoint even in one case, I think this is EXTREMELY unwise to allow such. Indiana, unlike other states does not have vast mountainous lands, there is no place in Indiana for the use of these high caliber cartridges other than for luxury purposes.

The partial responsibility to Protect the future safety of Indiana residents and hunters alike, falls within your decision, by recommending not to pass this amendment !

Comment Received 2/28/2015 9:55:46 AM

Commenter Name Taylor Bitzer
City Andrews County HUNTINGTON State IN
E-Mail Address bitzer_62@hotmail.com

Comments When I first heard about the proposed rifle changes I was very happy, for a few reasons. Often when deer hunting we see deer outside of ethical shotgun, or muzzleloader range. Allowing said rifle law changes would allow us to take deer that we could not before. We have all heard about the accuracy of shotguns as well, it can vary drastically and wounding game as a result of inaccuracy is not what we want. The result of shotgun accuracy is why I no longer hunt with a shotgun. Rifles are extremely accurate and offer greater knock down power which is good on the animals end. Some rifle cartridges also put out less recoil than most shotgun loaded with slugs do. With less felt recoil, hunters will be less likely to flinch throwing a shot off and wounding game. Under current law we are able to use cartridges such as the 358 WSSM, 308 Hoosier, and 308x1.8. These guns are very costly(upawrds of 1,000 dollars or more) to buy being they are special "wildcat" cartridges. Allowing the rifles in the proposed law gives us a more open and budget friendly way to ethically take deer

Now I know a lot of people argue how dangerous they are, that there will be a lot more accidents and unintended objects being shot. But lets look at some ballistics of one of the most common deer hunting cartridges there is, 30-06. A Hornady American Whitetail load with a 150 grain bullet has a muzzle velocity of 2910 and 1700 at 500 yards. It takes that bulles .676 seconds to travel that 500 yards and drops nearly 50 inches from the muzzle. So to me, that means that in less that one second a 30 caliber bullet drops nearly 50 inches. So in normal hunting ranges, if a hunter misses, that bullet is going to be hitting the dirt before you can even comprehend it. Bullets are not going to be flying all over the countryside like some people like to think. Just the same as it is with a shotgun or muzzleloader, often times if you see yourself miss, that bullet plows into the dirt of the field behind it and that is the end of the story.

A lot of people say that the northern end of the state is too open. Well with the above information, and the ranges that a person can shoot in northern Indiana, a bullet is going to drop and hit dirt before it goes striking a house or another hunter. Another good point is to ban them from being used on state ground. State hunting grounds are open to anyone and one hunter has no idea who else is out there and how many. On privately owned hunting land a hunter knows who all is out there and where they are, and where surrounding houses are.

Also, state law allows for the use of any firearm to take game such as coyotes, and groundhogs. There is no laws on what you can use and many people use high powered rifles to take those animals. It should be the same way with deer.

I think within the talk of this proposed law we shortchange the hunters, their ability to be aware of whats around them and their common sense when it come to hunting and shooting. No matter what we are shooting with, we do not aim near houses and other people. People get it in their head that since rifles would be legal people are going to be out wielding rifles and blasting at everything that moves. This is not the case. We want to hunt with rifles just as we do any other firearm. Legalizing said calibers in the proposed law just gives us better tools to take down our game with.

I hope that what I have wrote here is read and taken into consideration. I appreciate your time and I am hoping to be able to hunt with a rifle in the upcoming season!

Comment Received 2/28/2015 3:23:06 PM

Commenter Name Bryan Roach

| |
|--|
| <p>City Knox County STARKE State IN E-Mail Address amandatrim@msn.com Comments I have hunted Whitetail for 20+ years. I started hunting in Montana where high powered rifles were used. Year after year there were reports of "stray bullets" because of the distance they can travel. As I hunt in Northern Indiana and see the flat open land with houses spread around, I can't imagine how far one of these bullets would travel or the stories I will hear. Michigan only allows them in Northern Michigan where the terrain is hilly and not flat. Personally I feel this is an attempt to promote out of state trophy hunting. Not looking forward to the idea of being in the woods only a couple hundred yards away from several other hunter's knowing they may be sitting in a ground blind firing a 30-06 in my direction. My wife just started hunting about three years ago and my kids just completed hunter's safety last year. Not sure about them being in the woods if this passes!!! Comment Received 2/28/2015 6:31:09 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name rodger mckinney City tipton County TIPTON State indiana E-Mail Address carenmckinney@yahoo.com Comments Please do not approve high-powered rifle deer hunting. Too much risk. Comment Received 2/28/2015 7:04:55 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Randy Leer City Bristol County ELKHART State Indiana E-Mail Address ransanleer@comcast.net Comments Ohio passed a law that allowed hunters to use cartridges like the 45/70 Govt in the 2014 season without any problem. I can't see a problem with cartridges like the 30.30, 35 Remington. 444 Marlin or the 45/70 Govt. These are all 200 yard cartridges or less. I don't think they should be used in urban hunts. Let bow hunters do that. Randy Leer Comment Received 3/1/2015 11:33:18 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name darrell bright City muncie County DELAWARE State indiana E-Mail Address dbright57@comcast.net Comments i strongly disagree on the change to allow hunters to use highpowered rifles to hunt deer .. we do not live in wyoming or montana . the guns we are allowed to use now are bad enough 44,mag the muzzleloader 357mag thats enough. lets keep hunting safe for all, think about it .are deer herd is fine leave it alone.. thanks for your understanding on this issue d bright 8/3/50.. Comment Received 3/1/2015 2:03:27 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Tim Rayn City Anderson County MADISON State indiana Organization (optional) n/a E-Mail Address timrayn@comcast.net Comments Please do not open a high powered rifle in our state, I hunt farms north and south. the wood lots our to small. I have been a hunter ed instructor for ten years, and see students dropped of at class all the time with out a parent and feel this could happen in the woods, we have all you need now with the 150 gr muzzleloaders and 358cal Hoosier /450 bush master /44mag and many other cal. yes hunters have open cal with coyotes, this is true but you only have one or two hunters in the field. Not a deer hunter around every tree or in a ground blind, some of the farms we hunt I can see other hunter next door. must all fire arms we hunt with now only shoot around 300 yds..we need no more, so please stop before some one gets hurt or worst thank you for letting me speak, keep our hunters SAFE in the woods Tim Rayn Comment Received 3/1/2015 2:17:35 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Dylan Rayn City Anderson County HENRY State Indiana Organization (optional) N/A E-Mail Address raynrocks@comcast.net Comments As a young hunter and becoming a hunter education instructor I will personally just feel unsafe and that all of the guns that we can use today are plenty fine for Indiana terrain. SO DO NOT PASS THE HIGH POWERED RIFLE PROPOSAL!!! Comment Received 3/1/2015 2:30:38 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Michael Wildman City Thorntown County BOONE State Indiana E-Mail Address mwildman79@gmail.com</p> |

Comments I am a concerned resident of central Indiana who believes that allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting to be a dangerous proposition. After researching the surrounding states I would be more inclined to accept the straight wailed cartridge rule. With the more concentrated populations of Indiana I feel there will be a much greater chance of injury or death with the high powered rounds. I do understand that they are allowed for other types of hunting in the state. While this is true I am still concerned because of the much higher participation in deer hunting and the shorter window of time compared to other types of hunting. Also unlike most other forms of hunting in the state there seems to be more of an amateur or for lack of a better term, a weekend warrior participation. I have come across a few of these hunters and the thought of them with a weapon with more range is disturbing at best. Please reconsider this before it possibly gives our state and even gun owners as a whole a black eye. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion on this matter.

Comment Received 3/1/2015 6:11:24 PM

Commenter Name charles tower

City lanesville County CRAWFORD State indiana

E-Mail Address rtower00@aol.com

Comments Vote yes for the rifle season -

would like to see season moved around rut and reduce the number of does in my farms county of Crawford.

Organize land owners to create a Illinois type of deer herd.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 8:51:36 AM

Commenter Name Shawn Mickelson

City Noblesville County HAMILTON State IN

E-Mail Address torqdude@sbcglobal.net

Comments I have hunted and fished in this state for nearly 40 years and not one time have I commented on rule proposed changes. Exactly why is the DNR proposing the use of .243 rifles and larger? Is it revenue? I have deer hunted for 34 years in this state and have found that the traditional legal weapons(bow, shotgun, muzzleloader) are all the weapons required to successfully kill a deer in this state. This change will bring every cowboy out into the woods with a much more effective killing range then the traditional weapons allowed and I consider this a safety concern. I understand there will be a minimum shooting height requirement however I think you are kidding yourself. How will you possibly be able to enforce this? For the most part most of the people I watch in the woods fire from the hip and require multiple shots to maim deer the way it is.

Now consider the fact they are carrying a weapon that has the ability to carry much further. I do not support any part of this change and feel it is not in the best interest of the sport I enjoy throughout all traditional weapon seasons. Again I ask, why is this being proposed? If it is actually revenue I feel that is the wrong reason!!!!!!!

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:07:19 PM

Commenter Name Shawn Mickelson

City Noblesville County HAMILTON State IN

E-Mail Address torqdude@sbcglobal.net

Comments Panfishing has to make up a lot of the dollars generated from licenses for the state and I am sure the primary target fish that makes up that number is most likely bluegill, I believe limiting the bag limit for bluegill to 25 is random. Bluegill is the primary species I target and I must say in my outings that bluegill appear to be in ample supply pretty much anywhere I go. Have you considered a bag limit of 50? The bag limit for bluegill used to be 25 and it was removed completely. Why was that done and why the change to return to that limit? Revenue?

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:21:11 PM

Commenter Name Steve Mroczkiewicz

City Attica County FOUNTAIN State Indiana

E-Mail Address steve.mroczkiewicz@syngenta.com

Comments I oppose the allowance of centerfire rifles for deer hunting beyond what is already allowed (ie "handgun cartridges" like .44 magnum out of lever guns). The basis for my opposition is based upon (1) lack of sufficient benefit as stated in the rule change proposal. For example, methods of take in adjacent states is, and should remain, irrelevant to IN regulations. The statement that modern muzzleloaders are equal to modern rifles is false. Modern muzzleloaders, even using smokeless powder, do not generate the combustion pressures of most rifles, do not generate the velocities of many rifle cartridges, and do not fire ammunition with sectional densities approaching those of rifle cartridges. I did not see any significant relevancy in any of the reasons set forth in this proposed rule change. (2) Indiana deer hunting regulations are unique compared to states that do not allow high-velocity rifle cartridges. This is positive. Many IN deer hunters embrace this uniqueness and do not wish to see it taken away. Since the institution of the 1 buck rule, buck quality in IN has increased isgnificantly, mainly as a result of improved age structure. It is a given that judging trophy quality and age of a buck at rifle ranges is more difficult and cannot be acheived as accurately at common acceptable range of, for example, a slug gun or muzzleloader. Therefor, the average age of buck taken is likely to go down if rifles are allowed. Another reason I oppose this change, though this one is admittedly likely to be temporary, is that few Hoosier hunters have adequate experience hunting with rifles and are bound to overestimate the effective range of their shooting ability with rifles. I saw this when in-line muzzleloaders first came on the scene. Many hunters overestimated their own ability and that of their firearm, taking shots at unreasonable distances. I have hunted with a variety of firearms in many states for many years, and I've interacted with dozens of guides and outfitters in many parts of the country and in several Canadian provinces. They concur that non-resident (to their location) hunters that come from states without rifle seasons are typically not very proficient with their rifles, largely because they overestimate the rifle's ability and their own. Besides the other factors I've mentioned, this will almost certainly result in an increase in sublethal hits and lost or wounded game. Simply put, there are several reasons arguing

against this rule change and really no compelling arguments in its favor. A compromise might be to instate a trial period in which rifles can be used during antlerless-only seasons, particularly since one of the primary goals of such seasons is population management. Thank you.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:24:04 PM

Commenter Name Walter Grzych

City dyer **County** LAKE **State** in

E-Mail Address w.grzych@att.net

Comments Indiana does not need to have a rifle season along with all of the legal firearms currently in place- These rifles may increase the likelihood of accidental collision with buildings, vehicles and equipment commonly found in the northern counties of the state- the terrain of the northern portion of the state is relatively flat and heavily populated even through the countryside.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:27:49 PM

Commenter Name walter w selby

City vincennes **County** KNOX **State** in.

E-Mail Address wselmarg@att.net

Comments i see nothing wrong with allowing high power rifles. we all ready have pistols that shot the rifle calibers such as tc. contender and the savage striker pistols. several hunters are making wild cat shells by cutting the cases down to fit them into over all length. kentucky has been using high power for several years with out any problem. western ky. isnt any less populated than in. i see no problem once every one gets use to idea. hunters will learn not to take 300=400yd shoots.....walter selby

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:29:49 PM

Commenter Name John Krempp

City Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** In

E-Mail Address jfk@krempp.net

Comments Please do not allow the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer. This change will be very unsafe as hunters will be shooting at much greater distances. Most of Indiana is to populated for these rifles. In my opinion this change will exceed the fair chase of an ethical hunter. I can not understand any positive reason this rule is being considered. Please do not allow.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:32:06 PM

Commenter Name marvin gilpin

City versailles **County** RIPLEY **State** in

E-Mail Address jerrygilpin362@gmail.com

Comments not sure using a high powered in Indiana is a good idea to populated, I grew up in Michigan where this was allowed, but northern Michigan is unpopulated. I'm a hunter but feel this might be a mistake for the safety of the public, I use a rifle in Colorado and still have killed all my game in under 75 yards. so why do we need the distance of a rifle here? yes there are a few areas in the state that are less populated, but the hunters do fine there without the range of high powered rifles. can you imagine in our area which has a high population of hunters out of the cities who are going to buy a rifle and hunt here without the responsibility of knowing how to use one safely. well that's my opinion on the subject.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:33:53 PM

Commenter Name BENJAMIN HALL

City RISING SUN **County** OHIO **State** INDIANA

Organization (optional) LANDOWNER / FARM

E-Mail Address bhall@patrioticsi.com

Comments I own and live on a farm with 107 acre in Ohio county. I was born and raised in South East Indiana and I am 52 years of age. The guns I use now are the (Thompson 50 Cal. Muzzle Loader), (Ruger #1 Rifle in 460 S&W), (Powder Keg Rifle in 35 Viper) and (Powder Keg Rifle in 35 Short Mag). Three of the Rifles that I have listed were very expensive because they were Special made to be used under the changing Laws. If the law passes I will be purchasing other Rifles for my Wife and Granddaughter to hunt with due to the Youth and Woman Models on the market. This new law will open more opportunities for our children and wives to hunt with guns that fit their specific stature. I think this new law change will bring new hunters to the hunting world who have not hunted due to the right fit in weapons.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:42:16 PM

Commenter Name Ben D Hendrix

City Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bdhendrix59@yahoo.com

Comments I full support the purposed rule to allow the use of High powered rifles for hunting deer.

The current rules and the changes of the has cost Indiana hunter million of dollar and only benefit the people who make and sell guns and ammo that is suited to Indiana Only

It also forces Indiana hunters that hunt in other states to purchase different equipment.

Make H P rifles legal in Indiana and solve this problem and remove a financial burden from Indiana hunters

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:53:41 PM

Commenter Name keith rausch

City Battle Ground **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address hunterkeith01@aol.com

Comments I see nothing wrong with allowing rifles in center fire calibers. I have hunted with a Savage m12 smokeless powder muzzleloader for well over 10 Years and used a 358jdj single shot pistol. One shot ethical kills with these two guns. They both are in the same realm as a center fire cartridge rifle and most importantly harvest deer ore humanely and affective than shotgun slugs.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:54:02 PM

Commenter Name Tom Harneson

City West Point **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address tomharneson@gmail.com

Comments I would like to see a more gradual move for the sunfish rule if at all possible. Why not start with 30 or 35 and see how that goes for a few years? And instead of a 16" walleye length limit, why not change the bag limit to 3 per person at 14"? I have fished many waters in Indiana and outside of Brookville or the St. Joseph River (which already has a different length limit to match Michigan's) there aren't many places where you can catch more than 2 or 3 walleye in a day that are over 14" even if you fish all day for them.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:55:02 PM

Commenter Name Robert Edwards

City Brazil **County** CLAY **State** IN

E-Mail Address roberte243@hotmail.com

Comments This will be a very dangerous and costly mistake to allow large caliber rifles during the Indiana deer firearms season. I do not know who has ever shot their muzzleloader out to 500 yards like I read in something backing this bill. This such person shouldn't be allowed to hunt deer in this state if they even take such a shot with muzzleloading equipment. Very unethical!! I would that equally as stupid as taking a 100 yard shot with a bow and arrow. Now, I am very much in to trophy deer hunting in this state and have been able to harvest many great deer during our seasons. The rifle hunting (much like the cross bows) will put many hunters that do not have the knowledge of hunting in the woods. These people will be purchasing the latest technology that will allow them to take shots out to 1000 yards. What happens to the bullet when the wind is blowing 25mph at 300 yards? These people will miss and send a deadly projectile across fields, local and state highways and through many homes. I promise you this will end with several tragedies and shot up homes. Then once accidentally shoots a house, there's going to be some people that return fire. NOW, the trophy aspect....There will be so many mature deer shot that otherwise would have got away from the hunter that this state will lose it's trophy status and in return, the out of state hunters will go elsewhere. Modernizing some things will always be great, but our deer are paying the ultimate sacrifice because of it. I do not see half the big deer that I saw back in the mid to late 80's. That tells me that the "TV" watchers(the mighty hunting channel) is in the process of ruining our sport. I just hope that the insurance companies and the law makers don't help! Thanks you.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 4:58:26 PM

Commenter Name Zach ile

City hobart **County** LAKE **State** indiana

E-Mail Address zz.ile@hotmail.com

Comments There is absolutely no reason to allow a rifle season in Indiana we've done just fine with out one.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 5:58:09 PM

Commenter Name John Reister

City Liberty **County** UNION **State** Indiana [IN]

Organization (optional) none

E-Mail Address j.w.reister@hotmail.com

Comments The rule for rifle hunting using pistol cartridges was a poorly written law by using lengths of brass instead of specific calibers , this opened the door for custom made cartridges that don't remotely resemble handgun cartridges . Now you want to open it to all high powered rifles , this is an accident waiting to happen . I've been an avid deer hunter since returning from VietNam in 1969 and think this will have hunters shooting at long ranges resulting in houses , motor vehicles , and people being hit . I also believe it will result in more wounded un- recovered deer . Please re-think this law and vote it down . Thank-you

Comment Received 3/2/2015 6:02:08 PM

Commenter Name Henry W & Karen A Couch

City Aurora **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Kacouch@gmail.com

Comments We are in favor of the new rifle law.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 7:08:53 PM

Commenter Name Randy kieft

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Ind

E-Mail Address Rkieft@comcast.net

Comments I think there should not be a 25 limit on bluegill. They will become stunted with a limit.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 7:28:50 PM

Commenter Name Mark Clark
City New Albany **County** FLOYD **State** In
E-Mail Address Clark107@sbcglobal.net
Comments I am in favor of 25 bag limit on panfish including bluegill. This is a great idea that can help the species flourish and grow in our State. I hope this passes.
Comment Received 3/2/2015 7:41:14 PM

Commenter Name Joseph Morris
City Winamac **County** PULASKI **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address tippy.99@hotmail.com
Comments I just want to say that I personally think allowing the use of high powered rifles for deer is way out of the question. We already have issues with other hunters trespassing and poaching. This would be a poachers dream to hunt with high powered rifles. Less evidence of what they have to hide when they go to check in a trophy buck to brag about. They can say they shot it with a rifle and not lie about it other than shooting the deer under a spot light on someone elses property. And the thought of peoples lives. To many homes to close together and to many hunters on adjoining properties. There will be alot more hunting accidents at least in this area of the state. I try to keep good hunting ethics with my children and teach them the right way to hunt but with the accidents I see that will gain with the use of high powered rifles will either scare them or just drive them away from the sport. We have enough problems with people and bad ethics on hunting around here. Why create more issues. We dont live out west so my opinion is it is a huge mistake to allow deer hunting with high powered rifles.
Comment Received 3/2/2015 7:49:11 PM

Commenter Name Thomas Miller
City Syracuse **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN
E-Mail Address theminnow2001@yahoo.com
Comments I believe this rule would be great for the lake I live on. We have a lot of people come in and fish the blue gill that are bedding. They take any amount and size that they want. We would like to ensure Dewart Lake remains a great fishing lake.
Comment Received 3/2/2015 8:08:48 PM

Commenter Name Caleb Powers
City Salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address calebp_10@yahoo.com
Comments Allowing the use of high-powered rifles is an absurd idea. We already have too long of a gun season and allowing rifles will only have a negative effect on the quality of deer we have in the state for years to come. Not to mention there are already a bunch of crazy hunters out there and for those people to be allowed to use a high powered rifle is a scary thought. But, if for some reason the rule would happen to pass, the season should only last one weekend.
Comment Received 3/2/2015 8:44:21 PM

Commenter Name Richard Hostetler
City Hillsboro **County** Out of State **State** Ohio
E-Mail Address rmostwanted@yahoo.com
Comments I feel that passing the rule to allow hunter's the availability to use high powered rifles will greatly add to the success of deer being taken. I feel that Indiana will attract alot more out of state hunters that will ultimately add to money being uses to purchase hunting licenses, deer tags etc. I reside in Ohio but was raised in Dearborn County. I do 90% of my hunting in your great state. Kentucky allows high powered rifles and i know several hunters from out of state that flock to there to just be able to use a 30-06. Most people feel threatened because of the power and range that the high powered rifles shoot but we must take into account how much times have changed especially in muzzleloaders, they have evolved to be just as deadly accurate at most yardages that the high powered rifles can shoot. I can see limiting high powered rifles to certain counties only for different reasons. Population and elevation are just two. Most of my hunting i can't shoot over 100 yards because i like to hunt the thickets and oak flats. Another point would be the openness to youth hunters. Other sportsman i know start their kids out with a .243 a smaller caliber rifle with less kick of course. That could really broaden what all of us like to see is the future of the sportsman getting involved with a great past-time of hunting. If more youth can get involved the better off the child is. Hunting teaches so much to youths. I was there before hunting saved me from getting involved with the other things that comes with being teenagers. I thank you for reading this and i feel priviledged to be able to put my opinion in. Thanks Indiana DNR for all that you do to make Indiana the state it is for us sportsman. God Bless
Comment Received 3/2/2015 9:18:53 PM

Commenter Name Kernie Nichols
City Dillsboro **County** RIPLEY **State** IN
E-Mail Address knichols@seidata.com
Comments Approve rule.
Comment Received 3/2/2015 9:36:47 PM

Commenter Name Robert Ralston
City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ralstonr123@gmail.com

Comments I agree to the proposed changes pertaining to rifles. We should extend the rifle cartiges that are used in Indiana. I have read the slugs from a shotgun ricochet a farther distance then say a 30/06 do to the sustained inertia from heavier bullet.

Comment Received 3/2/2015 10:18:49 PM

Commenter Name Warren Bills

City Leavenworth **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ps90man@gmail.com

Comments I approve of opening up rifles for deer hunting .243 and above. We've needed this rule change for a long time. It only makes since if we can use high power rifle cartridges in pistols that it would actually be safer out of a rifle that you can hold steady and place a good shot. Please pass this! Thanks

Comment Received 3/2/2015 10:27:32 PM

Commenter Name Douglas McPeek

City RICHLAND **County** SPENCER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dognorma@coopsone.com

Comments I think it is a very good idea to allow the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer with in the state of Indiana . I do not believe the use of rifles would increase the accident rate during hunting season . I also think the rule change would make understanding what is legal to use much more understandable .
Thanks , Douglas McPeek . , disabled Viet Nam war veteran .

Comment Received 3/2/2015 11:03:24 PM

Commenter Name abraham hall

City aurora **County** OHIO **State** indiana

E-Mail Address abraham.hall@ge.com

Comments I see no difference between modern crossbows, .compounds,muzzleloaders,shotguns,custom rifles and rifles...I use a RECURVE bow to hunt...go ahead let any type weapon be used..our deer herd is regulated by farmers and car insurance ACTIVISTS anyways...either a hunter will be safe or not...the weapon changes nothing...

Comment Received 3/3/2015 5:49:38 AM

Commenter Name Charles Waggoner

City Bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Bud123@bluemarble.net

Comments I support this rule, it will provide for more accurate and humane shots. The ability to use a 243 caliber rifle will allow for the use of low recall ethical caliber for my wife to use. She enjoys hunting but has difficulty with the recoil from the slug guns.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 6:30:57 AM

Commenter Name Paul Lutteringer

City Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address lutteringerpaul@gmail.com

Comments I am in full support of changing the yous of .243 or larger rifle bullets to harvest deer.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 7:13:08 AM

Commenter Name Justin Hoepfner

City Woodburn **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jhoepfner@shambaugh.com

Comments Dear Indiana Rule Committee -

My comment below is regarding the new proposed rule change on the rifle equipment for deer hunting. While the language is being changed to allow high powered rifles there needs to be some consideration to adopt a maximum case length or limit the calibers allowed. Certainly I don't think its anyones intent to allow a hunter in Indiana to go deer hunting with a 300 Win Mag that he typically uses out west in Colorado for elk. But if no limits are placed that opens the door to that happening. I really hope that the group on this proposed rule change has also thought about the poaching implications here. With now allowing high powered rifles it makes it much easier for someone to have a rifle in their vehicle, see a door back along a fence line at 300-400 yards pull of the road and be able to accurately shoot the animal. Also lets remember, this is INDIANA, not Colorado, Michigan, or Pennsylvania where there is more terrain not allowing a high powered rifle to travel as far, but here in Indiana with it being mainly flat does pose some concern. In summary, while I am not completely apposed to the rule change I think that some caliber restrictions and other safety factors such as maximum number of rounds in the weapon need to be implemented to safely bring this rule to our state.

Thanks,

Justin Hoepfner

Comment Received 3/3/2015 7:50:57 AM

Commenter Name Wayne McIntosh

City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mcintosh3017@comcast.net

Comments I am commenting on the proposed change to the rifle rule. I think using a high power rifle in what is currently called an urban deer hunting zone is not a wise or reasonable thing to do. I live and hunt in Tippecanoe county and there are very few places in the urban zone where a person would hunt deer that would be suitable for a reasonable person to hunt with a high power rifle. It may be that high power rifles could be used in parts of Southern Indiana and counties like Warren and Polaski in Northern Indiana.

Yours,

Wayne McIntosh

Comment Received 3/3/2015 7:54:29 AM

Commenter Name Matthew Edward Patka

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mattpatka@gmail.com

Comments I am a huge supporter of Indiana's DNR program and Wildlife conservation. These latest potential rule changes would definitely change my perspective about Indiana's "ideals" towards wildlife and conservation. Here are my two main issues with this proposal.

(1) I think the current list of calibers allowed in Indiana needs to stay and not be altered. In my opinion, I believe it is a VERY BAD IDEA to add high powered rifles calibers to this list. The deer population is down right now, and we are harvesting some of the biggest bucks in the past 10 yrs due to good sportsmanship and deer management. Introducing the ability to shoot +400 yards with high powered rifles will cause a DECIMATING snowball effect for a multitude of things. See list below.

a) #1 in my book is Increased safety RISKS!! No offense to anyone, but there are a lot of dumb hunters who fire multiple rounds to harvest a deer. Indiana is pretty flat county and I would not feel safe in the woods knowing that my 3 neighbors all have high powered guns possibly aiming towards me. Most deer in Indiana are taken at 100 yards or less. There's no need for long range capabilities.

b) Huge potential for increased poaching.

c) Increased deer harvest numbers and hurt the population even more.

d) If H.P. Rifle calibers are introduced, there needs to be cartridge length restrictions.

e) If H.P. Rifle calibers are introduced, there needs to be mag & bullet capacity restrictions.

(2) Rule proposal "Allows firearms to be used during the deer reduction (formerly urban deer zone) season, where legal to discharge a firearm, from the first Saturday after November 11 through January 31 of the following year."

a) This rule is just stupid. There's no need for a +2 month gun season in "Urban Zones". I do a lot of Urban Zone hunting, and the great part about that is that you don't have crowded woods filled with people trying to kill deer. By adding this long of a gun season, it would TRULY RUIN the enjoyment and the opportunity for us good sportsman to have a safe local hunting area.

b) I ask Indiana to "re-think" about what their goals are and what conservation is. The Mid-West is known for some of the best whitetail hunting in the country. Lets not destroy that by trying to create the biggest deer harvest possible. This is not what its all about.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IS THE PRACTICE OF PROTECTING WILD PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS. AMONG THE GOALS OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT NATURE WILL BE AROUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY AND TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS LANDS TO HUMANS!!!

Comment Received 3/3/2015 8:44:26 AM

Commenter Name Jim Hartman

City DeMotte **County** NEWTON **State** IN

E-Mail Address jhartman@netnitco.net

Comments My thoughts on allowing high power rifles-I don't see a problem with this as long as people use their heads and are always aware of the surrounding area when preparing to shoot. My muzzleloader is quite capable of shooting 300 yards and I'm sure there are others that shoot farther. I guess it boils down to safety.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 9:06:38 AM

Commenter Name Brian Schwab

City Richmond **County** WAYNE **State** IN

E-Mail Address bschwab@hollandcolours.com

Comments It's my opinion that High Powered rifles are a terrible idea. First of all they were never available as weapons before now because Indiana was too flat and too populated for high powered rifles to be used safely. Well, if I'm correct, Indiana has not gotten any more hills than it had before and the population and urban sprawl has only increased making it a terrible idea safety wise.

Secondly The significant increase in range is far greater than the in-line muzzleloaders that are available now. There are very few that are accurate much past 100-150 yards. With High powered rifles you're talking about a 3 fold increase with shots out to 500 yards being possible, even to novice hunters. The Indiana deer population has taken a significant down turn

due to the ridiculous antlerless licenses available and to the two years of bad EHD outbreaks. Regardless of what the DNR posts for numbers lost due to EHD and increased doe harvests everyone who spends any time outdoors can tell you the population has fallen off dramatically.

With that being said I have complete faith that the Indiana DNR will do the wrong thing and allow the HPR changes and will do little or nothing about lowering the antlerless quotas to insure a quality deer herd. The already way too lengthy firearms seasons coupled with increased range of the HPRs will decimate an already struggling natural resource to the point it was in the 1930s.

What they should do is decrease the antlerless quotas dramatically for at least 2 years.

Move the gun season back to after Thanksgiving (Much Like OHIO)

Cut out the late antlerless muzzleloader season.

Limit the crossbow season somewhat except for handicapped users.

And finally do away with the HPRs altogether including the straight walled cartridges that are on the list already.

The shotgun with slugs is a perfectly fine firearm capable of good harvest numbers as this has been proven in seasons past, as well as muzzleloaders. They are enough and if people cant take a deer with those weapons or a bow then perhaps they should not be participating in the harvesting of whitetail deer.

I have every faith the Indianas DNR will make every wrong decision.

Prove me wrong!

Comment Received 3/3/2015 10:01:49 AM

Commenter Name patrick litchfield

City walkerton **County** MARSHALL **State** indiana

E-Mail Address litch48@inbox.com

Comments I feel i must comment on the proposed rule change to allow high powered rifles in the deer firearm season, this proposed rule change is ludicrous, the state of indiana is to populated to have such a change in hunting weapons, what sense does it make to allow such weapons in the field, with the saftey of citizens, the deer herd already way down in population, every sportsman i have discussed this issue with is not for it, I would hope the state, decides this issue with some good ol hoosier common sense, thank you,

Comment Received 3/3/2015 10:14:09 AM

Commenter Name patrick litchfield

City walkerton **County** MARSHALL **State** indiana

E-Mail Address litch48@inbox.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-7-14: DNR is required by state law to provide for the protection, reproduction, care, management, survival, and regulation of wild animal populations, regardless of whether the wild animals are present on public or private property in Indiana, /I don t think the state of indiana, has any bussiness regulating private ponds, the state is over stepping its bounds here, bad idea, thanks

Comment Received 3/3/2015 10:41:42 AM

Commenter Name jerry butler

City terre haute **County** VIGO **State** in

E-Mail Address jbxk120@g-mail.com

Comments please do not allow high-powered rifles for deer hunting,,there are too many nuts out there already who don't think about where their bullit went after they missed the deer ,or now through it thanks to your new rule.i'm a hunter myself and would have no trouble killing a deer with currently allowed weapons .indiana is too populated to have this additional hunting risk. thank you

Comment Received 3/3/2015 10:50:27 AM

Commenter Name patrick litchfield

City walkerton **County** MARSHALL **State** indiana

E-Mail Address litch48@inbox.com

Comments 312IAC9-7-10, having fished indiana lakes all my life, and the sunfish my favorite fish to catch, I have never seen fish populations hampered by not having a catch limit with this species, this appears to be just another intrusion by the state with over regulation, on a favorite Hoosier past time go n fish n, I don t think that Hoosier fishermen, need the state looking over there shoulder, in this instance, indeed the opposite will happen if this rule is passed, with the overpopulation of said species, in our lakes, thank you

Comment Received 3/3/2015 11:06:15 AM

Commenter Name Norman Tucker

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tuckern@bluemarble.net

Comments I agree that it makes sense to allow centerfire rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. I am an avid deer hunter with over 40 years of deer hunting experience. By allowing centerfire rifles I am confident that the number of wounded, unrecovered deer will be significantly reduced. It also will result in quicker more humane kills. As far as safety is concerned a high percentage of hunters hunt from elevated stands nowadays and the risk of an errant shot traveling a long distance is

minimal. In conclusion the centerfire rifle is a more accurate, efficient, user friendly tool to harvest deer with. Because of the milder recoil of the more sensible deer calibers it will allow more young people to get involved with the sport and enjoy all the beauty our state has to offer.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 12:03:00 PM

Commenter Name Richard Schenk
City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Rsch52@yahoo.com

Comments I agree with the use of high power rifles for hunting deer and other animals in Indiana. I believe that Law Enforcement officers should also be able to issue permits to possess animals found dead or killed by accident. It appears they were excluded from the original 312 IAC 9-3-9.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 12:49:44 PM

Commenter Name Tom Hatton
City Union City **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Mepps60@hotmail.com

Comments I think we need to stick with a straight shanked cartridge. They have a shorter range but good stopping power. The necked down shell have way to much range and can travel miles. I'm afraid people will take shots at deer they shouldn't missed shot could travel into other woods, houses or cars with a lot stopping power. A 7mm mag has the same muzzle velocity at 500 yd. as a 12ga. at the muzzle.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 1:56:08 PM

Commenter Name Paul Pula
City clinton County **State** in
E-Mail Address pulaplace1@yahoo.com

Comments I totally reject the idea of using high powered rifles for deer hunting. I grew up in the Hoosier outdoors, as well as my children, where the land is fairly flat and neighbors aren't that far away. I feel Indiana dnr has been moving in the wrong direction, the deer herd has been drastically reduced in my hunting areas which is consistent with what my hunting buddies have seen. I feel antlerless limits should be reduced in all counties, crossbows should be restricted to firearm season, firearm season should be pushed back to the weekend after Thanksgiving and shortened to 9 days, and move muzzleloader season to the final 16 days of the deer season.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 2:12:03 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Shull
City Albion County **NOBLE State** IN
E-Mail Address gonzolab@yahoo.com

Comments Imposing a limit of 25 pan fish per day would be detrimental to many if not ever lake in our state. Lakes will soon become over-run with bluegill, thus not only over-populating, but dramatically reducing the size of adult speices.

If you look at any under-fished lakes, bluegill sizes are significantly lower.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 2:42:53 PM

Commenter Name Mike Patty
City Delphi County **CARROLL State** Indiana
E-Mail Address patty mk@cat.com

Comments In reference to the proposed rule 312 IAC 9-3-3, where rifles are being considered for legal use for deer firearm. My opinion is in opposition to this proposal. I live in the country and am an avid hunter, have been for 40 years, the potential dangers of extended ranges of these rifles will only pose a larger threat to a possible accident. I am in fear for my families safety as well my own. Please consider the possible negative impacts to passing this regulation.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 3:22:41 PM

Commenter Name Derek Lough
City Albion County **NOBLE State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dslough00@gmail.com

Comments I oppose rules 9-7-10 pertaining to the pan fish limit. Indiana is not a destination state for pan fishing like Wisconsin. We have some of the best lakes for growth of pan fish that do need to be fished. I also oppose rule 9-3-3 pertaining to the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. The statement of muzzle loading rifles that can shoot 500 yards ... If this is true then I suggest hunters go purchase one of those. There are enough wildcat rounds legal already. Thank you ! Derek

Comment Received 3/3/2015 4:36:30 PM

Commenter Name Levi Hunt
City Attica County **FOUNTAIN State** Indiana
E-Mail Address lnhunt@purdue.edu

Comments The proposed rule changes to allow the use of high powered rifles, in my opinion, is not a safe option for

hoosiers. I feel that many residents of Indiana would not understand the real capabilities of the weapons they would possess. The area of Indiana that I reside, and hunt in, is a more level terrain. This would allow these bullets to travel much farther than most hunters would realize they are capable of. I do not see why any hunter would need to shoot at a deer farther than 200 yards anyway, you can't hardly tell if it is a male or female at that distance.

Allowing high-powered rifles would really take the "sport" out of the hunt. I would really prefer to keep these rifles out of the woods, and keep myself, my family, and my friends safe.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 4:54:14 PM

Commenter Name Chris Butcher

City Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address c43butcher@yahoo.com

Comments Concerning 3121AC 9-3-18.6 : We need to be able to use dogs to kill pigs. If you don't allow them now, you will when the population gets out of control. If pushing them to different areas is a problem, it's the same old problem of people not knowing what to do. Make some regs to outline dog use but, allow dogs.

Concerning 3121AC 9-3-3 : I don't care what the "stats" say, if you allow rifles for deer hunting, people we get hurt by idiots that are only constrained by the more limited range of a shotgun. I wouldnt go anywhere near public land on opening week of gun if this goes into effect.

In general I agree with easing the rules on land owner dealing with troubled animals. Thanks for allowing the input
Chris Butcher

Comment Received 3/3/2015 5:21:56 PM

Commenter Name Charles Sheppard

City Lizton **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sheppckmm@gmail.com

Comments I feel Indiana should move forward with the rifle round hunting change. I am 100% for the change, it will make what was a less ethical longer shot - a more ethical and attainable one!

Comment Received 3/3/2015 6:36:30 PM

Commenter Name todd shaffer

City decatur **County** ADAMS **State** indiana

E-Mail Address toddshaffer@myomnicity.com

Comments I think looking at harvest records over passed few years, the dnr can control the deer heard without the use of high power rifles. The terrain in adams and jay counties where i hunt are flat , there is no room for big guns and the end result will be fewer deer ,which in our area is alreedy tough. A big hazard which we dont need, and i cant think of one positive thing other than pleasing a few that probably dont hunt. Why dont we put this to a vote for anyone that has bought a deer tag in the past, this will give the people what they want, not a few that are setting the rules!

Comment Received 3/3/2015 7:11:22 PM

Commenter Name Craig Branstetter

City columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** in

E-Mail Address craig.branstetter@tiem.toyota-industries.com

Comments I am 100% for the rifle law change. I see no issues with it

Comment Received 3/3/2015 7:24:09 PM

Commenter Name Ben Griebel

City Hoagland **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address griebel.ben@gmail.com

Comments I strongly believe that the proposed rule change to allow high powered rifles for taking deer will have many negative side affects. First the use of high powered rifles is dangerous in the state of Indiana because of the close proximity of neighbors and other hunters. I do not believe that everyone will follow saftey precautions as they should and will be taking dangerous..shots. I will not feel nearly as safe hunting on opening morning. In fact, I probably wont be going out that morning if this rule is passed. Second, allowing high powered rifles will drastically reduce the deer population because it will be so much easier to take deer from long ranges where the deer will have no chance to know anyone is there. Hunting in Indiana has just started to get good with a growing deer population. Hunters have been given additional opportunities with pistol cartridges and extended seasons. This latest change just goes way too far and will endanger the public and fellow hunters alike.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 7:38:08 PM

Commenter Name David Leonard

City Zionsville **County** BOONE **State** IN

E-Mail Address Dleonard670@gmail.com

Comments I grew up in Georgia deer hunting with a 30-30 that I still own. I would enjoy the opportunity to use this gun in Indiana. I was told by several people that the flat terrain was the reason rifles are not allowed. I understand the physics behind this, but hunter safety education is key regardless of the type of firearm.

Comment Received 3/3/2015 8:32:50 PM

Commenter Name Joshua Sheldon
City seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address joshsheldon4430@hotmail.com
Comments Short and sweet no rifle season been hunting in this great state for 15 plus years and hope to never see this happen here. This state is not hilly enough and is to populated in the wooded areas to offer a rifle season. Please be smart as a state and so no to this bill
Comment Received 3/3/2015 9:18:54 PM

Commenter Name Dave Broertjes
City DeMotte **County** JASPER **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dacabro@hotmail.com
Comments I'm in favor of rule or regulation number 312 1AC 9-3-3 which would increase the cartridge and calibers of rifles allow to hunt deer in Indiana.
Comment Received 3/3/2015 10:33:54 PM

Commenter Name John Fithian
City Hazleton **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address deadlevel@hotsheet.com
Comments We do not need high power rifles to hunt deer ever !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Comment Received 3/3/2015 11:37:06 PM

Commenter Name Mark Fisher
City Fowler **County** BENTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address Markjosephfisher@gmail.com
Comments I can't understand why rifle barrel length would be restricted to 18 inches or longer. The legal length for owning a rifle is 16 inches without an ATF SBR stamp. The extra 2 inches is not going to change the ballistics enough on a rifle to make any difference. I understand caliber regulations, but why exclude so many rifles in proper calibers that people already own that are 16 inch barrels? The shotgun regulation mirrors the legal length of barrel to own the gun and that is what the rifle length should mirror also.
Comment Received 3/4/2015 3:56:18 AM

Commenter Name dan zellers
City tell city **County** PERRY **State** in
E-Mail Address dzellers@psci.net
Comments concerning blugill, redear, . this needs to be a lake by lake rule ! a non stream fed lake with hybred fish a 25 limit may work, but in stream fed lakes, blugill are not hybred and will overpopulate in a couple of years. already a problem in some lakes ive fished.
Comment Received 3/4/2015 8:58:01 AM

Commenter Name Spencer Judd
City Anderson **County** MADISON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address spencejudd@comcast.net
Comments If this high-powered rifle rule goes through I really think it's just the beginning of the end. Like it or not our deer herd is down in general and along with all the other ways our deer are killed (usual seasons, doe only season, virus, coyotes, traffic, etc:) it's no wonder some are saying they are ready to stop deer hunting in Indiana! Now add high-powered rifle? Please consider using this rule when and only should the size of our heard gets out of hand.
Thank you!
Comment Received 3/4/2015 9:17:12 AM

Commenter Name Richard A Lee
City Lamar **County** SPENCER **State** IN
E-Mail Address rakl@hotmail.com
Comments I am in complete favor for the rule change. Being a hunter for over 20 years I have hunted deer and other wildlife across a variety of states. We are quite fortunate to have some of the largest deer in this half of the US. Because of this, the current rules that ban rifle cartridges create a less humane situation for deer.
Additionally, the current rifle cartridge ban only effects deer hunting rules. I have heard a multitude of comments about fear of errant rifle shots carrying extended distances and posing a safety issue. I'm sure few hunters and politicians are aware that according to current Indiana hunting laws it is fully legal to hunt squirrels (shooting into trees) with a 50 BMG rifle. The 50 BMG is responsible for 4 out of the 5 longest sniper shots in Afghanistan, all well over a mile away. Combine that with the development of purely legal inside of current cartridge restrictions "wildcat" cartridges such as the 358 Hoosier, which can effectively kill a deer at 600 yards, or the ballistic tipped 12 gauge deer slugs made by companies such as Hornaday, combined with a rifled deer slug shotgun barrel, and this safety concern is again rendered irrelevant and foolish.
Finally, as a taxpayer I am ever away of the challenges that our hard working conservation officers face. Every time a rifle is seen by a conservation officer, the rifle and ammunition must be inspected. With many different "wildcat" cartridges being fabricated these days which are so numerous that conservation officers cannot keep track of them all, they are forced to

carry micrometers and spend extensive time in the field micromanaging situations as opposed to better use of their time ensuring that poaching, which is running rampant in Southern Indiana, is brought under control.

I hope that common sense returns to Indiana.

Respectfully,

R. Anthony Lee

Comment Received 3/4/2015 11:46:24 AM

Commenter Name Thomas C. Roach

City LaPorte **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address troach16@netzero.com

Comments I would like to see the 45-70 caliber being used for deer in rifle season, some people are trying to use the 44 Magnum as the ideal weapon, but most are taking too long of shots which reduces the Energy at 100 -200 yards out. The 45-70 has ample enough Energy at those distances but will not be affective beyond those due to it's large projectile's weight. Please consider this.

Thank you

Comment Received 3/4/2015 12:49:59 PM

Commenter Name Greg Kolkman

City Ft. Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address fssgolf@gmail.com

Comments rifles for hunting should not be allowed in our State.

Learn the art of hunting. Shots over 125 yards are irresponsible and dangerous in our state

Comment Received 3/4/2015 2:36:07 PM

Commenter Name ALEX CASE

City GREENSBURG **County** DECATUR **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ACASE@PREMIERAG.COM

Comments I am not in favor of using high powered rifle for deer hunting in indiana we live in decatur county i can not think of many places we could shoot i high power rifle safely that is not in the direction of a home or road the other places we hunt using the equipment we are allowed to use is more than enough to take all the deer we want to take.I CAN JUST SEE SOMEONE UNLOADING A SEMI AUTO HIGHPOWER RIFLE AT RUNNING DEER ACROSS A OPEN FIELD WITH NO REGARD WHERE THOSE BULLETS ARE GOING BECAUSE THEY ARE EXCITED AND CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT PLEASE THINK ABOUT EVERYONE,S SAFETY!!!!!! Thankyou Alex Case

Comment Received 3/5/2015 7:08:25 AM

Commenter Name Greg DeWitt

City Elizabeth **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address greg.dewitt@americanbuildings.com

Comments I am in favor of allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 10:55:19 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Sedam

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

E-Mail Address sedamoose@aol.com

Comments Concerning section 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, subsections (d) (4) (A) Fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

As a deer hunter I am adamantly OPPOSED to this change. We live in a flat terrain area and the change to this rule is dangerous!

Comment Received 3/5/2015 12:11:08 PM

Commenter Name Caleb Sedam

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

E-Mail Address calebsedam@aol.com

Comments Concerning section 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, subsections (d) (4) (A) Fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

As a deer hunter I am adamantly OPPOSED to this change. I do not feel this is safe in northern Indiana. Our land is too flat and the bullets have the potential to carry way to far. This is not safe!

Comment Received 3/5/2015 12:13:14 PM

Commenter Name Zach Sedam

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

E-Mail Address zachsedam@aol.com

Comments Concerning section 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, subsections (d) (4) (A) Fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

As a deer hunter I am adamantly OPPOSED to this change. I do not feel this is safe where I live. Bullets wil travel to far and have a great potential of hitting someone. This is not safe!

Comment Received 3/5/2015 12:15:13 PM

Commenter Name James Guy

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address james.guy46580@gmail.com

Comments please implement new rules concerning using common rifle caliber and their rifles for taking deer. i think us hunters will be responsible and morally harvest game as we have done for years.centuries probably.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 12:19:01 PM

Commenter Name Diann Sedam

City Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

E-Mail Address sedamjd@aol.com

Comments Concerning section 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting, subsections (d) (4) (A) Fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

As the wife and mother of deer hunters, I am adamantly OPPOSED to this change. I was born and raised in this area, having lived here for over 40 years, and have seen successful deer hunting the majority of these years. This addition is something that is not needed for a good hunt, but will be potentially be harmful to the area's residents. The distance this bullet can travel is to great for this flat area. This is not safe!

Comment Received 3/5/2015 12:20:10 PM

Commenter Name Norman Hoeppner

City Woodburn **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address nhoeppner@sauder.com

Comments I'm an avid deer hunter who has been fortunate enough to hunt deer in Indiana for the last 45 years. Sportsmen my age have seen our deer herds prosper and grow along with our hunting opportunities through these years. Thanks to the DNR for that! However, I'm against rule change 312 IAC 9-3-3. Safety is my primary concern. Opening up the use of all calibers 243 and greater doesn't make sense in our flat farm land counties. Shot selection decisions will change dramatically. Accidents will increase. Deer hunting will change to deer shooting. Automatic Rifle (AR) platform rifles will take over with clips carrying unlimited number of cartridges. Edge hunters who "empty their guns" at running deer today will become much more dangerous with AR's under this rule tomorrow. There might be a small segment of hunters who support this change however the vast majority of hunters in NE Indiana are happy with the current state. Please do not pass this rule change.

Thank you for asking for public input. I pray that our decision makers will make the right decision for our sportsmen and women and also for our whitetails.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 12:53:32 PM

Commenter Name Patrick Jordan

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pjordan43@gmail.com

Comments I believe it's inappropriate to consider the rifle change based solely on safety without any regard to wildlife management. In the past several years the state has increased bag limits, added seasons and added weapons to the point that it's impossible to know the exact affect of those rule changes at this point. Adding a weapon capable of killing out to 1000 yards WILL have a negative affect on the deer population and we face the possibility to falling over the cliff with the DNR's push to reduce the deer herd. It's important for the DNR to understand that they need to govern based on what is in the best interest of the wildlife and not be influenced by politics. I understand that's a very difficult notion. It's also extremely concerning that the individuals passing and recommending these laws have no real background with wildlife management. They are appointments made by the governor.

It has also been stated that surrounding states allow rifle hunting and that ML are no capable of 500 yard kills. Those are two misleading statements. First, the ML capable of that kill range are extremely expensive and not a viable option for the general public to purchase. They are also single fire weapons that shoot a very heavy projectile. A rifle can be purchased for 200.00 and has the ability to fire 5 rounds in well under 1 minute if it's a bolt action. Furthermore, the semi autos are as fast as I can pull the trigger. The last thing I want is a hunter cracking off 10 rounds from his AR-15 at a running deer. The last survey the DNR conducted of hunters stated that the primary concern was "other hunters ethics". With that being the case, how can we pass a proposal that is so dependant upon proper hunting ethics such identifying what's behind your target. I would urge you to table this proposal until a further in depth evaluation of our current deer herd can be done. Passing laws without knowing the full effect they have is extremely irresponsible and unethical in my opinion.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 2:58:08 PM

Commenter Name Josh Hoeppner

City Woodburn **County** ALLEN **State** IN

E-Mail Address hoeppner_j@antwerpschools.org

Comments I think that adding the ability to use high powered rifles to hunt deer is exceptionally dangerous. There are already enough hunter throwing lead at deer from long distances. It takes a great shooter to reach out and hunt deer from

long distances. If hunters are simply throwing lead into the air and miss, it is likely that those projectiles will be traveling into neighboring woods and endangering hunters either on the ground or in the tree. I strongly oppose this piece of the bill even though I have the capability to hunt with these types of guns. Hunter safety is number one and I think we are going away from this.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 3:03:03 PM

Commenter Name Bill Cabanaw

City Osceola County ST.JOSEPH State Indiana

E-Mail Address rbcab1116@att.net

Comments I am in total agreement with the new/proposed panfish limit. I think it's well overdue. With all of today's electronics available on the market, it has drastically changed since the 25 fish limit was lifted years back. Also I believe there is a huge increase in the amount of people fishing today, as compared to years back. TOO MUCH PRESSURE. Look at some of these fishing forums, with pictures posted, of amounts of panfish harvested, well over 100 many times, for a couple anglers. This proposal needs to be enacted soon.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 4:27:44 PM

Commenter Name Keith Smith

City ramsey County HARRISON State Indiana

E-Mail Address hoosier71.ks@gmail.com

Comments I feel there should be a bag limit on Bluegill but I think combining the bag limits of all panfish together is not the way to do it. I have to drive nearly 40 miles one way to reach the nearest Bluegill/Redear lake around where I live and its going to be very hard to spend that kind of money for 25 fish. I love catching bluegill and redear and I throw my fair share back when I go. I also believe that this rule could harm some lakes such as Dogwood lake. I'm not a marine biologist but the bluegill population seems so high there that being able to keep less fish would result in an overpopulation of bluegill and redear thus making the size structure smaller. I also feel that people living close to their favorite lakes will have an advantage by being able to fill their limit, taking it home and then returning to fill another limit. As I said, I think there should be some type of limit on these fish but I don't like the whole aggregate thing. 25 of each would be better. And if people try to cheat the system by filleting their fish on the water so they can't be identified then don't let them fish for awhile. Thank you for this opportunity.

Comment Received 3/5/2015 11:59:59 PM

Commenter Name Frank M. Green

City Greenwood County JOHNSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address holylandgames@gmail.com

Comments I am for the purposed rifle cartridge change in Indiana this next season. Email me for full PDF list of signatures.

Indiana Hunting Rifle Cartridge Change (243 signatures)

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/indiana-hunting-rifle-cartridge-change/>

My argument for legalizing modern rifle calibers would be:

*Greater accuracy so you will have a cleaner kill. The animal will suffer less, and you will have less wounded deers running away only to have the hunter not retrieve the injured deer and shoot another. The hunter would have more control of his shot placement limiting damage to the deer's vital organs.

*More people own the more common calibers, so you may have more people take up an interest in hunting, selling more licenses and rifles sales in Indiana increase our state revenue.

*Hunters from out of state would desire to hunt here in Indiana since the rifle's they already own can be used legally here when this law is passed. Their state might not allow rifle hunting which would be a intensive for them to come to Indiana vs states like Kentucky. Which bring us greater revenue by making Indiana a more desirable place travel for neighboring hunting communities.

*Most modern rifle calibers have lower recoil than a shotgun, allowing older hunters to hunt longer. It may also reduce injuries of people falling out of stands due to the heavier recoil knocking them off balance in a tree stand.

Name

1 Cindy Orellana; 2 Frank Green; 3 Bill Benson; 4 Charles R. Ross; 5 Mark Todd; 6 Carol Sexson; 7 Michael Loveless; 8 Eric G. Priest; 9 Keirra Terry; 10 Jimmy Vazquez; 11 James Terrell; 12 Myrna; 13 Bill Terry; 14 Frank Green Jr.; 15 Russell Green; 16 Byron Gentry; 17 Byron Gentry; 18 Josh Walton; 19 Nick Brewer; 20 John Stevens; 21 Tom Anderson; 22 Sompong Pljarnsan; 23 Nick Pugliese; 24 Jim Klatte; 25 Clark Badgett; 26 Carson Eller; 27 Kenneth Miller; 28 Seth M Forgey; 29 Matthew B Hawkins; 30 Donald nicoson; 31 Donald Nicoson; 32 David Young; 33 Nathan William gross; 34 Joshua Shanks; 35 Bill Bunnell; 36 Michael Foote; 37 Matthew Winkle; 38 Brett Hayes; 39 Ayrton Ingle; 40 Paul King; 41 Donald Wilson; 42 Donald Wilson; 43 Michael K. Stephenson; 44 Thomas Cacy; 45 James Morris; 46 Brett Haas; 47 Ed Hunt; 48 William Bartholomew; 49 Denny Howe; 50 Quentin Collins; 51 Jesse Carnley; 52 Joshua Ealy; 53 Justin Hohn; 54 Jason McClain; 55 Charles haywood; 56 Trent Middleton; 57 Mark C. Williams; 58 Nicholas Earl; 59 Darren Ritchie; 60 James McClain; 61 Gary Ritchie; 62 danielle earl; 63 Brian Kent; 64 Charles Miller; 65 Carmen Carter; 66 Phil Vance; 67 Phil Vance; 68 Alan Garbers; 69 Brandon Shumaker; 70 Everett Barber; 71 TSOB; 72 Mark Mahurin; 73 John Williams; 74

Jared Gonyer; 75 Mike Loveall; 76 aaron kalman; 77 scot Hoffman; 78 Brian Lennon ; 79 Bryan Smith; 80 Trent Mosher; 81 brian freeman; 82 doug Bennett; 83 Michael Wendel; 84 George Gaylord; 85 ken sommer; 86 Jim Meyer; 87 Shane Sparks; 88 STEVE LAIL; 89 Ben Nuthak; 90 Ben Williams; 91 Nash Reed; 92 Mike Snider; 93 Jordan Francis; 94 Sam kelser; 95 josh francis; 96 Ryan Barnett; 97 Andrew W. Mick; 98 curtis wells; 99 Josh; 100 Chandler Poyser; 101 Brandon Hardy; 102 Travis&Nicole Gibson; 103 Henry Carver Jr; 104 Tim Hoblet; 105 Thomas James Berry III; 106 Mathew Osborne; 107 Michael Burdette; 108 Greg Clawson; 109 Donald Jackson; 110 Bryce Jackson; 111 Pete Crawford; 112 Hunter Spade; 113 Chris Johnson; 114 Scott A Badger; 115 Terry McVay; 116 Robert Bibbww; 117 Josh Gates; 118 Armando huizar; 119 alan 120 Jason Janis; 121 Matt Claridge; 122 dan webb; 123 Chris Brown; 124 jason Stanley; 125 tom rogers; 126 randall Williams; 127 Alex Zee; 128 Gary Clunie; 129 Warren McDonald ; 130 Anthony Christian; 131 Bruce VanHouten; 132 Darryl Zeber; 133 Tristan Spiegel; 134 J.D. Bouse; 135 Jerry Noppert; 136 Rick Freund; 137 Josh Rogers; 138 joseph leturgez 2; 139 Chris Myers; 140 Duane grubb; 141 Nathan Cromer; 142 samantha Curtis; 143 joseph sanders; 144 Tony Scott; 145 Noah Andres; 146 Larry Horton ; 147 Everett Porter; 148 LUKE BRUBAKER; 149 Travis R. Reynolds; 150 FRANK A. WOODWORTH; 151 Jason Hatch; 152 Libbi; 153 Bill Kelp; 154 joshua platz; 155 william; 156 Craig Kunkler; 157 Danielle Fields; 158 Dennis D. Britton; 159 Bruce Moore; 160 Brian ; 161 Alex Barr; 162 Bob Nichter; 163 brennan; 164 Don McFarland; 165 J. Rader; 166 Matthew B Hawkins; 167 Eric e Heidenreich; 168 Josh kast; 169 Jacob Bowling; 170 Jeremy Campbell; 171 Trevor Wright; 172 Isaac Ritter ; 173 Dustin gilliatt; 174 justin Meyers; 175 Ron Payne; 176 Scott Kirk; 177 Jared Isaacs; 178 Bruce Ludlow; 179 James smith; 180 Wes King; 181 Matthew Caddell; 182 Jesse fuller; 183 Gregory Strychalski; 184 Mike Metzger; 185 Pamela Parsons ; 186 Austin; 187 Tom Muse; 188 Ben; 189 Jacob Schult; 190 jerry Thomas; 191 Cecil E. Stroud Jr.; 192 Adam; 193 Allen R. rumble; 194 THOMAS GLADDEN; 195 Kenton Penix; 196 Michael Wheeling; 197 Rex Bohner

Comment Received 3/6/2015 1:29:32 AM

Commenter Name Frank Green Jr.
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address greenf983@gmail.com

Comments The updated rules for rifle cartridges is something I would want for hunting. I want to hunt with my Mosin Nagant, 8mm Mauser, and Remington 700 30-06 next season. My Son is very excited about hearing that these changes are being offered as am I.

Comment Received 3/6/2015 1:32:57 AM

Commenter Name Jerry Stefandel
City Middletown **County** HENRY **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address pegnstretch@hotmail.com

Comments I do not agree with the proposed changes in the "high powered rifle" use in deer hunting. I have hunters, some ethical and some not, hunting on the property next to mine. There are times I have bee called an idiot to walk around on my own property while they are hunting. I have 23 acres, the property next to me is 15 acres. I do not want to get shot, I do not want my grandchildren to get shot while playing, and any deer on MY property I intend to keep safe as well. If someone is using the high powered rife, such as a 30-30 the risk is even greater. The deer population around here has dwindled to nothing. The hunters have even shot a deer and took the head and left the rest to rot! We also have fox on our property and intend to let them be! No one will hunt here with or without written permission!

Comment Received 3/6/2015 2:45:54 PM

Commenter Name Mark Nicholson
City Michigan **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address dmnicholson@msn.com

Comments I think this is an excellent change on rifle cartridge allowment. It is about time that Indiana got with the program. Our neighboring states are doing this now, why shouldn't we ? It will lead to less wounded deer and will give a far more accurate shot, with less chance of a stray slug going through the woods. You have our full support on this change. Thank you from all us hunters.

Comment Received 3/6/2015 3:42:34 PM

Commenter Name Ellen Donker
City Fairbanks **County** SULLIVAN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ellenadonker@gmail.com

Comments I think the property boundries are too small to safely use the new changes to allow high powered rifles. There will be too many unqualified people trying to buy and use this type of gun. It will promote shooting from roads across fields and like mannered illegal acts. In all it will endanger homeowners and other hunters.

Comment Received 3/6/2015 8:08:09 PM

Commenter Name Ellen Donker
City Fairbanks **County** SULLIVAN **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ellenadonker@gmail.com

Comments I think the property boundries are too small to safely use the new changes to allow high powered rifles. There will be too many unqualified people trying to buy and use this type of gun. It will promote shooting from roads across fields and like mannered illegal acts. In all it will endanger homeowners and other hunters.

Comment Received 3/6/2015 8:08:56 PM

Commenter Name scott wireman

City rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** in
E-Mail Address dhwireman@gmail.com
Comments I am against the legalization of high powered rifles in Indiana. The farm fields central to north are to open and flat with houses dotted through out. Most shots should be with in 100 yds.
Comment Received 3/6/2015 8:19:45 PM

Commenter Name Andrew tucker
City mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** indiana
E-Mail Address antucker@hotmail.com
Comments Should have to pass "challengening" safety course to use rifle. 6 months prior to deer season, so one would habe to plan ahead.
Comment Received 3/6/2015 9:42:25 PM

Commenter Name Stuart Keller
City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bigmedicine@alumni.purdue.edu
Comments Dear Sirs,
I would like to ask that this measure be adopted as it has been proposed.
The previously made changes to the firearms rules have not resulted in an increase in any of the "dangerous" aspects of hunting that some predicted. I find it difficult to distinguish a difference between a 30-06 fired from a handgun (Thompson Encore) as compared to a 30-06 fired from my rifle.
I would strongly urge you to consider moving away from discussions regarding caliber and move towards a more scientific discussion regarding bullet size, weight, and energy. Some of the rules are still somewhat confusing (like why a 10mm pistol that has more energy than a .357 Magnum is not a legal hunting cartridge). By moving this entire discussion to a scientifically based factual discussion, you would avoid emotions and allow unbiased, rational dialogue and, hopefully, conclusions.
Again, I ask you to please adopt this proposal. As a parent of 2 young boys, I would really like to have them use rifles that have much more manageable recoil profiles. I cannot see how using a rifle endangers anyone or would result in huge increases in harvesting deer.
Last of all, I would truly enjoy being able to use several rifles passed down to me from my Father to use deer hunting. Using my father's 30-30 would really be a fantastic way to honor my family and safely take game.
Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
Stuart Keller
Comment Received 3/7/2015 11:23:12 AM

Commenter Name Dan Balascio
City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** IN
E-Mail Address balascid@gmail.com
Comments In favor of adopting the rule change to allow for the expansion of rifle cartridges allowed to hunt deer. Based on data from surrounding states which have a similar rule (KY, IL, MI), there is no additional risk of hunting accidents statistically.
Comment Received 3/8/2015 8:39:43 AM

Commenter Name tim o cole
City sharpsville **County** TIPTON **State** Indiana 46068
Organization (optional) none
E-Mail Address timacole2@gmail.com
Comments i would like to use the rifles i have and not have to get a special Indiana rifle made. my calibers are 270 , 243 and 308. ,that can only be used out west. Please let me know when and where the public meeting will be. Thank you for your consideration.
Comment Received 3/9/2015 8:55:23 PM

Commenter Name Christopher Cunningham
City Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address cjcunning@hotmail.com
Comments I would like to voice my opinion regarding proposed changes to 312 IAC 9-3-3 that would allow for the use of high-powered rifle during deer firearms season. I am against this proposal. I feel that allowing a large percentage of hunters to use high-powered rifles encourages many to take unethical shots beyond their skill under field conditions. Also, much of the state is sparsely wooded and flat increasing the risk of accidental shooting. I feel that in order to increase hunter opportunity, satisfaction, and deer harvest we should instead focus on public relations with landowners and development of habitat, especially concentrating on the role our farmers could play in developing our wildlife resources. Thank you.
Comment Received 3/9/2015 9:41:25 PM

Commenter Name john nale
City logansport **County** CASS **State** indiana
E-Mail Address johnmnale@gmail.com
Comments I just do not see where a rifle season would be a beneficial addition to Indiana's deer season. All example

states used are much more of a rolling terrain than our state. I do not feel as though we would be safe from unqualified hunters with such firearms in their possession who do not take responsibility for what lays beyond their target. There is no problem with what we have available to use now and hunters taking quality deer during their harvest. This rule should remain as is and not be changed unless it's for lower power such as possibly 30-30 and 45-70 as example

A case length limit should at least be set

I feel more research and thought should be put into this.

Comment Received 3/9/2015 10:20:09 PM

Commenter Name Bruce Collins

City Cayuga, IN 47928 **County** VERMILLION **State** IN

E-Mail Address trilogybwc@gmail.com

Comments I feel the proposed amendment to allow high-powered rifles for deer hunting on private property in Indiana will, because of the geography of our flatland farms and not mountainous hillsides, make for a dangerous opportunity for accidental deaths account the range of the projectile...i.e. five miles instead of a couple hundred yards. I own and live on a 140acre Classified Forest farm bordered on the east by a river, and fear that the use of large caliber firearms will encourage hunters to take long distance shots they would normally not attempt, never minding the fact that anyone walking in the brush at 500yds would be difficult to identify, such shots would increase the likelihood of striking an unintentional target well beyond the sight of the hunter.

Also, please consider ricochets on frozen ground from either missed shots or after passing through a deer without striking bone...I urge you to consider the dangers posed to communities surrounding hunting areas.

In conclusion I would recommend no change to the current laws concerning allowed firearms unless it is in certain areas where danger to traffic and the community is not at risk.

Thank you.....Respectfully,

Bruce W Collins

Comment Received 3/9/2015 10:31:14 PM

Commenter Name Samuel Daugherty

City Wabash County **WABASH State** Indiana

E-Mail Address samdaugh@yahoo.com

Comments I am absolutely against the use of rifle cartridges larger than the "pistol calibers" already approved for much of Indiana. Much of Indiana, the northern two-thirds is predominantly flat farmland that would present numerous dangers in the routine use of higher caliber center fire ammunition. Brown County and south may have valid arguments for the safe use of these types of firearms and ammunition but the terrain of the northern parts of the state doe not support it. I have heard numerous individuals argue that center fire rifle are already allowed for other uses like coyote or just shooting pleasures. These in lower numbered occurrences and a tighter group of hunters than would be seen during the deer firearms seasons. Basically, the number of hunters swells immensely at deer season so that argument is mute. Also, the number of hunting related accidents swells with the deer firearms season as well. Much of this has to do with the lack of safe hunting practices and overall field experience. Allowing the hoards of deer firearm hunters, many inexperienced, to now use long range rifles is a recipe for disaster and would be a huge safety concern for anyone living in a flat terrain/farmland area in the north of the state. I think about all of the 40 to 80 acre fields with an accompanying section of 20 to 40 acres of woods. Is their really a need for a rifle in that environment? Is it safe for the four farms on that road to have a hunter with a 30-06 only two or three hundred yards away firing at a fleeing deer? Quite honestly, in Wabash county it is nothing to see anywhere from six to a dozen or more hunters on a square mile. That number of long range weapons could present a serious problem considering factors like hunter experience level, moving targets, flat terrain, number of dwellings on that block etc. I am normally the guy who believes in as loose of restrictions as possible given the sustainability of the targeted species but I think the bag numbers from the last decade show that we do not have a problem in Indiana with being able to harvest large numbers of whitetailed deer with the current weapons/seasons allowed. If anything, I am seeing a substantial decrease in deer numbers in my areas over the past three for example. New and easier methods of over harvesting will not end in the sustainability we should all seek as good stewards of the wildlife. When I hunted in other states as a military personnel stationed there, those states had areas where rifles were legal to use when the terrain and number of dwellings would safely allow. That may be the smartest (and hopefully only) approach to allowing these hunting weapons in Indiana. Brown County is my best example, parts of brown County would easily allow for the use of high powered rifles where as northern Indiana farm ground would not for the obvious reasons. I love hunting, but I want to feel safe as my children and I venture in and out of the field. Thanks for the consideration.

Comment Received 3/9/2015 11:04:31 PM

Commenter Name Kevin Rauscher

City Celestine **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address kevin.rauscher@nationalofficefurniture.com

Comments Broadening the use of high power rifles is not needed, nor is it a good thing for the state of Indiana. I've been in the field to many times when hunters shoot at game without knowing the background of their shot. I can't or don't want to imagine what could happen if they were using high power rifles to do the same. We don't need a weapon that can kill at 500 yards and that's what's going to happen. It will be "How far can I shoot at this deer" contest.

| |
|--|
| <p>Not needed or wanted by this hunter. Comment Received 3/10/2015 10:34:47 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name EARL L WASHER III City CHARLESTOWN County CLARK State INDIANA E-Mail Address WEEHORSE2@AOL.COM Comments I THINK THAT LETTING THE USE OF HIGH POWERED RIFLES HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING. OTHER STATES WITH SIMILAR TERRAIN ALLOW THE USE OF HIGH POWERED RIFLES AND HAVE HAD NO PROBLEMS !! OUR STSTE OF INDIANA WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS EITHER. REGARDLESS OF ANY SITUATION ACCIDENTS HAPPEN. THANK YOU .. Comment Received 3/10/2015 2:16:32 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Kenny Yoder City Milford County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana Organization (optional) 1964 E-Mail Address kenyo64@gmail.com Comments I don't have a problem with the rules now as far as rifle calibers . I don't want to see someone go out and buy a .270 Win or something of that nature the day before season and bore sight a scope and not practice or exactly know where the rifle shoots. Comment Received 3/10/2015 5:27:37 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Menno Eicher City Bluffton County WELLS State Indiana E-Mail Address eicherm@outlook.com Comments I vote no on the 25 limit on bluegill, simply because lakes will soon be over-populated. However, a size limit may be an option to increase the quality of fish. I think fishermen should use common sense and only keep what they will eat. Comment Received 3/10/2015 6:59:17 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Miles Reichard City TIPPECANOE County MARSHALL State IN E-Mail Address countryboy.300@hotmail.com Comments I think that the new rifle cartridge proposal is a great idea. Many Indiana residents own these rifles and the proposal would grant the rifles more use and worth. Residents would not be limited to using shotguns or magnums with a constrained range, and the harvest of deer would be more bountiful and effective. Out-of-state hunters may be more tempted to hunt in Indiana if they were able to bring their own rifles that are allowed in their own state. I disagree with those who have concern for the safety of firing these cartridges. I believe that the terrain of this state would not allow such long and reckless shots to be made in the first place. Indiana cannot be compared with the wide-open Western states, where you can spot deer a thousand yards away. One would not need to make 500+ yard attempts at deer in Indiana. Most hunters hunt from within a wooded area or from a stand in a swaying tree. There is little reason to think that just because a hunter would now have the capability to make a longer shot that they actually would take the risk of missing. With the property lines so divided in many Indiana counties, most hunters would not be able to go and retrieve a downed deer that they shot from too far away without the possibility of trespassing on property that they do not have previous permission to be on. Hunters are taught in Hunter's Education to mind their background and to not shoot across public roads, so the same guidelines would apply to any weapons that a hunter chooses to use regardless of how far it shoots. My father is a life long deer hunter, but after a heart surgery, back surgery, and the effects of aging, each season will be more and more difficult more him. He uses a large shotgun that seems to get heavier and heavier for him every year. I believe he has a hard time hauling the gun (and himself) up into the tree stand, and I fear the day will come that pulling the trigger makes him nervous for his health. A lighter, lesser-kicking 30-30 has been willed to him from my late grandfather, which the gun currently sits in the safe and is only used for occasional recreational shooting. My dad would benefit greatly if the proposed changes are adopted and he is able to use grandpa's 30-30. This would keep him healthy and keep him hunting for many more seasons to come. I greatly hope that the new proposed rules on rifle cartridges are adopted. This would unlock the potential of all Indiana hunters to claim more deer each season more easily. Comment Received 3/10/2015 9:25:05 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name brock fleming City henryville County CLARK State Indiana E-Mail Address btf0509@gmail.com Comments I was happy to see that Indiana is talking about allowing more rifles to be used for deer hunting. Safety is always a concern, but I feel that with the proper precautions it can be plenty safe. Hunter orange requirements, capacity, and rifle action is a concern, but if a requirement in this area is addressed then i am in 100%in favor of rifles being used. Thanks for reading. Comment Received 3/11/2015 2:23:15 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jerico Wiswell City Elkhart County ELKHART State Indiana E-Mail Address Jwiswell@gmail.com Comments I feel this is a good move for the state and may attract more hunters to our areas, increasing revenues for local</p> |

shops and stores. It may also increase hunting interest of locals by not having it quite so confusing to get into it.

Comment Received 3/11/2015 4:12:07 AM

Commenter Name shawn bostock

City Henryville **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address shawnbostock@gmail.com

Comments this rule change has been a long time coming. it makes sense, and i believe it would be a good thing for the hunters of indiana. i would like to see a five round limit in the magazine, there are some idiots that will take their ar-10 .308 with 20 round magazine and rapid fire it. a limiting device that can only be removed with the dis assembly of the magazine would be great.

Comment Received 3/11/2015 9:58:27 AM

Commenter Name Clint Stewart

City Lebanon **County** BOONE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cstewart1901@gmail.com

Comments I don't think it is smart to allow rifle cartridges for deer hunting. Where I live it is very flat and these rounds travel very far. I am a deputy for this county and I am constantly pulling rifle rounds out of hime and cars from people target practicing. In areas outside of Whitestown and Zionsville this is extremely dangerous with all the subdivisions. I believe this is irresponsible if this law is passed. I also don't agree with the urban deer zones being aloud to use anything other than archery equipment. Again, most of our urban zones are in close proximity to subdivisions and archery is the only safe way of taking game. I also feel that the deer management is doing great and if it's not broken don't try to fix it. I don't believe the urban zones should be changed at the will of a director either. Just leave them where they are or if they want to change it propose a vote using citizens who pay taxes. No decision should ever be left to one person. I hope my comments are read and considered. Thank you. Clint Stewart

Comment Received 3/11/2015 11:41:21 AM

Commenter Name Don Swangin

City Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sdswangin@msn.com

Comments This is in regards to the amending of rule 312 EAC 9-7-14 which is to put a limit on how many panfish you can catch. As the rule stands now, there is no bag limit. The proposal that will amend this rule states that 25 panfish may be caught in one day. That's fine except that once you put a limit on how many fish you can catch then it automatically reverts to the Rule that states that you can only have a total of 50 fish in your possession, unless you can put them in your permanent resident's freezer. How can people do that who travel to state parks and rent a cabin for a week? Yes, the cabins do have freezers but they are not a renters permanent residents, so therefore, if you rent a cabin for a week, you can only catch 50 fish for the whole week. Seriously, who would do that? Not me or my friends who for the past 24 years have rented a cabin for a week at Shak A Mak to fish for bluegill. If this rule goes in to effect, there will be a lot less people renting cabins who travel to go fishing. I already have a cabin rented for this fall, but if this Rule is amended, I will cancel my reservation. To go down for a week and only be able to catch 50 fish isn't worth my time or money. Please turn this rule down so those of us who enjoy going for a week renting a cabin and fishing, can continue to do so. Thank you, Don Swangin

Comment Received 3/11/2015 1:28:08 PM

Commenter Name Andrew Snider

City Westfield **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address arsnider2012@gmail.com

Comments I am against rifles for safety purposes. I also think Wild Pigs should be allowed to be hunted with dogs. The last thing we need is getting a foothold in Indiana and good dogs could control that.

Comment Received 3/11/2015 8:42:33 PM

Commenter Name Bill Fraley

City Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Williamfraley30@yahoo.com

Comments I say there must be a caliber cap on deer hunting of 30:06 because there will be the guy who watches to many movies thinking he is a sniper trying to take a deer with a 50 BMG bullet

Comment Received 3/12/2015 11:37:32 AM

Commenter Name Russel Green

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address NasCarGreen@gmail.com

Comments I support the accepted changes to rifle cartridge changes.

Comment Received 3/12/2015 2:15:36 PM

Commenter Name Tom Shevlot

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tomshevlot@gmail.com

Comments As a landowner and avid hunter, I fully support the proposed rule change to allow the use of rifle's using cartridges of .243 or greater. I plan on attending the public hearing where I will provide additional information supporting the use of high power rifles.

Comment Received 3/12/2015 5:32:03 PM

Commenter Name John K Haendiges
City Ramsey County HARRISON State Indiana
Organization (optional) 1960
E-Mail Address khaendiges@gmail.com
Comments Approve as written.
Comment Received 3/12/2015 5:33:27 PM

Commenter Name Paul Weil
City Lawrenceburg County DEARBORN State Indiana
E-Mail Address theweils1@fuse.net
Comments Please do not pass the larger caliber rifle cartridge proposal.
Comment Received 3/12/2015 8:33:17 PM

Commenter Name Robert Q. Huffman
City New Castle County HENRY State IN
E-Mail Address Huffmanrq@yahoo.com
Comments I am in agreement with the proposed amendments in SECTION 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3 Deer hunting equipment. while the knee jerk reaction is that every tom dick and harry will break out their Ak47 or BMG 50 and start blasting away and the woods will become a war zone, I think hunters are more responsible than some would give credit. While I personally wouldnt use an AK in 7.62 to hunt deer with, I think its unfair to tell sportsmen like myself I cant use it. I will hunt responsibly no matter the firearm or situation. The average ak will carry 400 yards and then be in the dirt, if shot at a deer while standing and missed, and even shorter distances in the woods. I believe education is the best approach to hunter safety. If I can use a .233 to coyote hunt(way more range than most calibers in the proposal), I should be able to use .243 and up. There is also the argument that handguns in .357 and larger is already in place, the idea of expanding rifles will only make those calibers more accurate. I am an avid 2nd amendment supporter and getting more calibers in the sporting range helps. While the 2nd ammendment isnt about hunting I think this proposal helps the cause in 2nd ammendment battle.
Comment Received 3/12/2015 10:30:38 PM

Commenter Name joe devine
City lagro in. County WABASH State indiana
E-Mail Address joe.devine.38@gmail.com
Comments In regard to allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting. The idea of considering such a rule change is absurd. I counted over 15 homes in the square mile in which I reside. This is not wyoming or montana ect. There will always be a given number of people who love guns will want to use all kinds of guns period. Even considering the idea is a bad policy in indiana.
Comment Received 3/13/2015 12:13:09 PM

Commenter Name James M. Cunningham
City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana
Organization (optional) None
E-Mail Address James_Cunningham32@Yahoo.com
Comments I support the rifle caliber changes. However, if it is not approved, a good compromise would be to allow a cartridge length of 2.25 inches with the current min of .357 bullets for straight walled cases only, and would allow cartridges like the 444 Marlin, and 45-70 to be used, and would continue the limit of 1.8 inches on bottlenecked cases. This way, there would not be a ballistic increase over currently allowed equipment, but would allow the hunter with more options. Also, you should eliminate the case length limits on black powder cartridges provided that they are actually loaded with black powder, or an actual black powder substitute such as pyrodex, or triple 7. This would allow hunters to use the old 45/110, or 50/90, and again would not have a range advantage over existing equipment. Also, the state should consider allowing high intensity rifles, in only the hilly areas of the state, if it is not willing to allow them state wide. I am here to support the statewide adoption of high intensity rifles, and these compromise suggestions are should be considered only if the state isn't willing to go statewide with it. Also to be considered, is to supplement hunter education training with the range/safety aspects of high intensity rifles, and if deemed necessary to require a high intensity endorsement on their license, issued only after a safety course specifically addressing the range/safety issue has been completed. This last suggestion might mitigate fears the state has on approving high intensity rifles either statewide, or just in certain areas. Thank you for your attention--Jim
Comment Received 3/13/2015 1:10:27 PM

Commenter Name James Robinson
City Monticello County WHITE State Indiana
E-Mail Address deerhunter19642002@yahoo.com
Comments I like the proposed rule to allow other calibers such as .30 caliber and 45/70. I think the rule should be approved.
Comment Received 3/13/2015 4:24:57 PM

Commenter Name Brad Brand
City Eaton County DELAWARE State Indiana
E-Mail Address bbcincorporated@sbcglobal.net

Comments I am writing about the proposed rifle cartridges being allowed for the firearms season. I have spoken with every hunter I know. Some of them who travel for work to other parts of the state. I have not heard of one person, or has anyone I know who has heard of one person, who supports this rule change. The points of concern are: 1) That the justification given is to reduce the deer herd and (2), that we already allow in line muzzle loaders which have the range of a rifle, about 500 yards. The problem with these theories is that there are better, safer ways to reduce the deer herd and that muzzle loaders do not already have a range of 500 yards. There may be inline muzzle loaders which are capable of this, but I have never heard of one or seen one. Most are accurate to 200 yards. beyond that is a whole lot of variables which most 2 week a year hunters would not even consider. Now, to put a rifle in every hunters hands, experienced and beginners, which have a range of 1000 yards, will put every person within 1/4 mile in possible harms way. Leaving the shotgun and the muzzleloader the primary weapons in so much safer for our state and will keep the challenge of taking an animal in Indiana something that means something. I personally live in the woods with a 12 acre wooded lot beside which I have seen up to 7 different hunters there during the season. There were (2) 14 year old boys dropped off to hunt there one day and during a 6 shot rampage, I could hear slugs coming through the woods my direction. There is no place they can hunt on that property which is more than 350 yards from my house. There are a huge amount of 10 to 20 acre wood lots in Indiana which are hunted and have neighboring home sites which are home sites. Rifles being used there will eventually end in a tragedy. Another major concern of hunters is the amount of wounded deer. The state started to allow the use of cross bows a couple of years ago. No one I hunt with uses one. They are great for those who can not draw a bow. The problem again is giving people a weapon which has such a range that they go out and shoot it for 10 minutes, take a couple of 60 yard shots, and go out and shoot at deer at that distance. I do not know anyone who owns a cross bow who has not wounded and lost a deer every hunting season. The same thing will continue, only worse, if rifles are approved. Guys will take much too long a shot because the rifle is capable even though the hunter is not. What I always ask myself when making a major change is " what good will come from this." Many more deer will go off wounded than will be good shots made from beyond 200 yards, for a whole laundry list of reasons. Unfortunately, the answer to this question for this rule change for the state, its citizens, and the wildlife of the state is nothing, nothing at all.

Brad Brand

Comment Received 3/13/2015 4:26:48 PM

Commenter Name g stobaugh

City merrillville **County** LAKE **State** in

E-Mail Address stob55@yahoo.com

Comments There should be a rifle season in Indiana . Starting in 2015.

Comment Received 3/13/2015 6:56:29 PM

Commenter Name Mike Baker

City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address bake06@embarqmail.com

Comments I support the use of rifles for deer hunting in Indiana

Comment Received 3/13/2015 8:09:10 PM

Commenter Name Matthew Baker

City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mbake98@embarqmail.com

Comments I support the use of rifles for hunting deer in Indiana

Comment Received 3/13/2015 8:11:33 PM

Commenter Name Tim Robinson

City Sellersburg **County** CLARK **State** In

E-Mail Address 24robinson@twc.com

Comments I want the high powered rifle rule to pass please !!!!

Comment Received 3/13/2015 8:30:37 PM

Commenter Name Dale Lewis

City Nabb **County** SCOTT **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dalewis@insightbb.com

Comments Being an avid deer hunter for almost 40 years I have seen some really good rule changes. I am though opposed to the high powered rifle rule and think a 30-30 and 45-70 should be the only weapon introduced at this time. Southern Indiana does not have enough contiguous land to warrant weapons such as a 300 win mag etc. Unfortunately leasing has ruined the sport for young hunters wanting to hunt and over crowding on public land only strengthens my opinion. The 30-30 and 45-70 are excellent cartridges and more then enough. Those two cartridges alone will make folks happy and keep it safe. From Indianapolis and above I think any cartridge is good due to the flat lands further North. Thank you very much...just my two cents thrown in for your consideration.

Comment Received 3/13/2015 9:21:55 PM

Commenter Name Michael Dockery

City Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mdockery523@yahoo.com

Comments I support this rule change. There is no evidence to support that there will be any more injuries due to high

powered rifles being legalized. It will make it easier for hunters to make clean shots more accurately.

Comment Received 3/13/2015 9:22:38 PM

Commenter Name Jerry Rowland

City Batesville **County** RIPLEY **State** in

E-Mail Address hunt2r@gmail.com

Comments I see no problem with the proposed rifle change.

I do think that the antlerless bag limit is to generous for northern Ripley County.

Comment Received 3/13/2015 10:28:19 PM

Commenter Name Timothy L York

City Lyons **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address yorktl@hotmail.com

Comments As a landowner and deer hunter in this great state it is my opinion that if you can't harvest a deer within the long seasons we are given and with the current legal firearms available, maybe you shouldn't be deer hunting. Our deer population was down 10-20% in 2014, we don't need to make it any easier to harvest a deer, please don't add high powered rifles into the mix. Thank you

Comment Received 3/14/2015 2:19:15 AM

Commenter Name Justin Ross

City Columbia City **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address biggross2002@aol.com

Comments I support the proposed amendment regarding the allowing of centerfire rifles to hunt deer. I believe that with the advancement of modern shotgun ammunition it is a mute point to not allow rifles as their range often equals them. At the very least all straight walled rifle cases should be allowed including calibers such as 30/30 or 35 Remington.

The allowance of Farmers to obtain permits to kill dear and to use any rifle caliber to do so is a testament that rifles are safe to use in Indiana.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 2:20:04 AM

Commenter Name Nicole Dubar

City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ndubar@pnc.edu

Comments I am completely against allowing high powered rifles to be used to harvest deer in Indiana. The land is far too flat and much more densely inhabited than other states that allow the use of these guns. Also, many areas are facing a declining deer herd. I urge the state not to allow this change of rule. Thank you.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 2:56:54 AM

Commenter Name Patrick Haupt

City Spencerville **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address patrick.haupt@yahoo.com

Comments I believe that legalizing high power rifles in Indiana is not a good idea. Indiana for the most part is to flat and even in most rural area's the population of people is to high for high power rifles. I believe it will cause more harm than good because more and more people don't care about what they are shooting at and what is beyond their target. Around where I live people shoot across property line now and don't care. Rifles will only make matters worse, more road hunting, more spot lighting, more trespassing, more injured deer because people will be more apt to take longer shots that they haven't trained or practiced and will more that likely injure more deer or kill them but never recover them. (Unethical kills) Even as the proposed rule stands now there is no max on the size of rifle someone can use. 300 win mag, 338 I will even throw in the 50 BMG let see what happens when those start going off with no backstop behind them. Just something's to think about.

Thanks for your time.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 4:20:52 AM

Commenter Name Mike Richardson

City Greenfield **County** HANCOCK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mrichard5@comcast.net

Comments I think this rule needs to be adapted. From what I understand these changes have been put into effect in other states without issues of safety. I might be willing to accept some changes as in southern counties which are heavily forested be allowed the use of rifles but maintain rules as they are today for other counties. However the confusion this would create would be enormous in my view. Trying to defien boarders would be very difficult.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 7:07:04 AM

Commenter Name alain smithe

City indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address 5615551212@vtext.com

Comments Regarding the rule on Rifle Cartridges.

The state needs a better way to define 'high-powered' cartridges than the bullet weight and caliber. It's an issue of physics, because a small, high velocity round can possess the same amount of kinetic energy as a larger, low velocity round. I

suggest the state consider the kinetic energy that a round possess at a given range as part of the way that ammunition is classified and defined instead of just the caliber and cartridge length, especially with continuing improvements in the powder in the cartridge.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 7:41:38 AM

Commenter Name Steve Cornell

City Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dingdongfc3sw@yahoo.com

Comments The majority of the shots taken by deer hunters are taken at a downward angle from a tree stand. However, the majority of shots taken by coyote hunters are taken across a flat field and they are the ones allowed to hunt with high powered rifles. To me that just doesn't make sense. I think it's past time to allow Indiana deer hunters to finally be able to use rifles.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 7:59:16 AM

Commenter Name Ross Page

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address rosspage@comcast.net

Comments I am in favor of allowing the use of centerfire rifles when deer hunting in Indiana. I currently hunt with a .44 magnum rifle and a .50 caliber muzzleloader. Other states that do allow centerfire rifles have not and are not experiencing the problems that the anti-rifle crowd seem to fret over. The gun is a tool, your brain is the weapon. I'd love to be able to hunt with a .308 or 30.06.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 8:23:49 AM

Commenter Name Richard David Grey

City Shoals **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ridagrey53@aol.com

Comments As the owner of several 30 caliber rifles I support the use of so called "High-Powered Rifles" for deer hunting. The accuracy of the rifle and the available projectiles that they fire will result in a more "Humane Kill" and reduce the chance of a wounded deer not being retrieved and suffering horribly from their wounds. I would like to see 2 rules implemented. The first being - Only bullets that FRAGMENT upon impact can be used. This will result in a larger, more devastating wound that will result in the deer being killed even the "shot placement" isn't perfect. And in the event that the shot misses the deer the projectile will fragment upon contact with the first object it hits and won't continue to "skip along the bean fields" as one person stated. Berger Bullets are one example of "fragmenting Hunting Bullets". The SECOND RULE would be the most difficult. Require anyone that wants to hunt with a rifle to be qualified at a rifle range (such as Sugar Ridge) by the DNR. Sincerely, R.D. Grey, Shoals, IN.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 10:00:07 AM

Commenter Name charles selby

City vincennes **County** KNOX **State** in

Organization (optional) w.v.s.c.

E-Mail Address jcselby@nwcable.net

Comments i do not agree with the use of rifles to hunt deer anywhere in the state of in

Comment Received 3/14/2015 10:05:51 AM

Commenter Name charles selby

City vincennes **County** KNOX **State** in

Organization (optional) w.v.s.c.

E-Mail Address jcselby@nwcable.net

Comments i do not agree with the use of rifles to hunt deer anywhere in the state of in

Comment Received 3/14/2015 10:06:30 AM

Commenter Name Bill Spellman

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address wjspellman@sbcglobal.net

Comments tired of the .44 handgun cartridge ineffectiveness I can hit the deer at 70-90 yards but knock down Power and killing power is too weak. Not humane to Wound a deer that can travel 200 yards or more across Terrain and disappear in the brush. Spending 12 to 20 days in the field to harvest one or two deer is discouraging. Especially when I see deer 90 to 150 yards out in the field Grazing. Watching wild life is wonderful. Harvesting and Eating venison is way better. Please pass the new rifle Proposal for this hungry Hoosier.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 11:22:01 AM

Commenter Name Susan Pines

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN - Indiana

E-Mail Address strom23ski-info@yahoo.com

Comments I am expressing my opposition to the proposed change that would allow high-powered rifles to be used to kill deer in Indiana. This is a dangerous and unnecessary change. I live near Fr. Harrison State Park and enjoy the state's parks and DNR properties. I feel this change would be risky, unsafe, loud, and unneeded at our park properties. Thank you.

Comment Received 3/14/2015 11:55:15 AM

| |
|---|
| <p>Commenter Name Aaron Reitz City Westfield County HAMILTON State IN E-Mail Address aaronreitz@gmail.com Comments i am in total support of the proposal to allow the use of rifles during the firearm season. The logic laid out in the proposal is spot on. Comment Received 3/14/2015 12:50:21 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Josh Woody City Fishers County HAMILTON State Indiana E-Mail Address jwoody11@comcast.net Comments I've been deer hunting in various counties of the state for the past 30 years. I am concerned about the potential use of higher caliber firearms. Our terrain is not like the plains states or out west where most kills are taken at long range. Things are more dense with reduced lines of sight. I feel allowing something that can travel hundreds of yards for a kill is not safe here in Indiana, especially southern Indiana. Comment Received 3/14/2015 1:34:36 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Connor Evans City Mooresville County HENDRICKS State Indiana E-Mail Address klondike.evans@yahoo.com Comments As a youth hunter, I enjoy rifle hunting and it would be nice to rifle hunt in Indiana so I don't have to go traveling to other states to do so. I currently don't hunt in Indiana because of the fact that you have to use a shotgun. Having to travel to another state to enjoy rifle hunting is an inconvenience and it affects the time I have as a youth to hunt with a rifle. Comment Received 3/14/2015 1:47:29 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Joe Evans City Mooresville County HENDRICKS State IN E-Mail Address Jd280.evans@gmail.com Comments Long overdue Indiana! Welcome to the 21st century. This will allow much better herd management with a significant reduction in wounded deer. Side benefit: increase in revenue as rifle hunters can now stay home instead of hunting out of state. Long term benefit: the YOUTH of this state will see rewards for their hard work and diligence in the field with an increase in deer harvested in a safe manner with more lethal means...the positive effects will keep that young person coming back for a lifetime. Comment Received 3/14/2015 1:57:29 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Brian Cole City Madison County JEFFERSON State IN E-Mail Address bgcole22@yahoo.com Comments I fully support allowing center fire rifle cartridges be legal for deer hunting. Modern muzzle loading rifles can be loaded to fire accurately at 200 yards now, why not allow rifles that can do the same? It is an ancient law that needs to be changed. Comment Received 3/14/2015 3:53:22 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name myra mason City indianapolis County MARION State IN Organization (optional) n/a E-Mail Address myramason4988@aol.com Comments I saw the March 14 article in the Star with photo of Ted Nugent. Is this the same Ted Nugent who called the President of the U.S. a "Subhuman mongrel?" and Hilary Clinton a "Toxic Cunt?" I have no confidence in anything he recommends. He is spokesman for the NRA? No wonder we have a gun problem in this country. Comment Received 3/14/2015 4:49:06 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Kenton C. Ward City Noblesville County HAMILTON State IN E-Mail Address kentw54@aol.com Comments I am in favor of the ability of using rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. Comment Received 3/14/2015 8:07:30 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Mike walls City Loogootee County DAVIESS State Indiana E-Mail Address Mrwalls56@gmail.com Comments Yes to rifles Comment Received 3/14/2015 8:17:09 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Charles Huffman City Knightstown County HENRY State Indiana E-Mail Address tony338@hrtc.net Comments I agree with the proposals to: allow 28 gauge slugs for deer hunting; allow rifles firing bullets .243 inches and larger for deer hunting.</p> |

Comment Received 3/15/2015 3:54:09 PM

Commenter Name William Yeager

City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address weyyeager@yahoo.com

Comments I vote yes to include 243 caliber and larger for deer hunting. Thank You.

Comment Received 3/15/2015 9:16:40 PM

Commenter Name Frank Keszel

City South Bend **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Frankkeszei@gmail.com

Comments As a hunter with limited mobility and having a son who hunts from a wheelchair I am in favor of the new rule to be able to hunt deer in Indiana with a high power rifle.

Comment Received 3/15/2015 10:10:55 PM

Commenter Name Russell K. Hart

City Williamsport **County** WARREN **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Warren County Sheriff's Office

E-Mail Address in.sheriff.86@gmail.com

Comments Just a brief comment on the proposed Rifle rule. I am not opposed to allowing rifles to be used to hunt, however, I do think it may be a valid idea to limit capacity, or limit the type of rifle to be used to single shot only such as a TC Encore or other type rifles, or at least bolt action only. Or possibly bolt action with the use of a magazine block that only allows for single shot. I am concerned that semi auto rifles such as say a browning 30-06, in the hands of some of the clowns I hear out there blasting away now with their semi auto shotguns, may create unsafe conditions. I hear the rapid fire 12 gauge guys shooting at running deer regularly around my county, and fear that if we start throwing rifle rounds out there at 2700 to 3000 FPS we may encounter some stray rounds finding their way somewhere we don't want. We could "ease into" the rifle hunting one shot at a time, and I think that would be very acceptable. that's my 2 cents, I hope my comment finds its way to someone who can present it, and maybe it will get legs. Thank You, Chief Deputy Sheriff Rusty Hart, Warren County

Comment Received 3/16/2015 9:58:26 AM

Commenter Name nelson bettner

City Boggstown **County** SHELBY **State** indiana

E-Mail Address kjbettner@gmail.com

Comments High powered rifle cartridges have been legal for hand gun hunting for over twenty years with no ill effects. I say yes to long guns.

Comment Received 3/16/2015 10:58:50 AM

Commenter Name Doug Allman

City Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address dna1975@embarqmail.com

Comments Comments on Proposed Rule Changes

312 IAC 9-1-5.3: Removes the word "traverse" to allow additional types of crossbows to be used.

Comments: I am against this. There is no current need to change this socially or biologically. It opens the door for unseen future weapons expansion that may not be good for the sport or could once again pit sportsmen against another.

312 IAC 9-3-2: Changes the urban deer zone license to a deer reduction zone license to be consistent with proposed language changes in 312 IAC 9-3-4 and requires check station operators to check-in deer using the DNR's electronic harvest reporting system. Changes to the licensing system are in the process, and retailers will be able to check-in deer and turkey for hunters through a system similar to the current licensing system.

Comments: I am against the change of the urban deer zone to deer reduction zone as well as the plan that is proposed.

312 IAC 9-3-3: Makes the following changes governing deer hunting equipment:

- Allows the 28-gauge shotgun to be used during the firearms seasons and the special antlerless season. Twenty-eight (28) gauge deer slug ammunition is now available and allowing these firearms will provide deer hunters another choice of firearm with which to hunt deer. Comments: Why change this when you are pushing rifles. Who cares?

- Clarifies that handguns currently legal to use during the firearms season are legal even if originally designed and registered as a rifle. This would clarify that a rifle that can be changed to be used as a handgun can be used during deer firearms season as long as it meets requirements for legal handguns. Comments: Leave it as as.

- Allows additional rifles to be used by reducing the bullet size required to .243 and eliminating the maximum rifle cartridge case length. This will allow high-powered rifles such as the .30-30 and .45-70 during the deer firearms seasons. Full metal jacketed bullets would be unlawful because since they do not expand when fired, and therefore, do not kill as humanely. The DNR believes this change can be made at this time for the following reasons:

- o There are currently no limits on rifles that are legal to use for species other than migratory birds, deer and wild turkey.

- o Muzzleloaders have evolved to the point that with smokeless powder (which is legal to use), they are essentially a high-powered rifle (accurate 500-yard gun).

- o They are legal in several nearby states, including Kentucky, Michigan (the northern part of the state) and Pennsylvania.

There has been no increase in hunting-related accidents as the result of the use of rifles, neither in Indiana nor in several other states where they are allowed.

o There isn't a need to limit the equipment that can be used to take deer in order to manage the deer herd. The deer harvest was a record in 2012, and the DNR is managing the deer herd through other means.

o Rifle cartridges that fire a bullet at least .243 in diameter and have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches long can safely and humanely kill white-tailed deer.

• Allows firearms to be used during the deer reduction (formerly urban deer zone) season, where legal to discharge a firearm, from the first Saturday after November 11 through January 31 of the following year. Use of firearms in deer reduction zones would give communities greater flexibility to manage deer-related problems and should improve deer-harvest success rates. It will also cause problems. See previous comments.

Comments: I am against the rule change allowing more center fire rifle cartridges in fact I believe instead of allowing more high powered cartridges we should allow less. As you extend the range of a weapon you also extend the margin of error as well as in this instance you greatly increase the range that a bullet will carry. This will allow more game to be killed at a further distance which may affect the impact on the resource as well as the chance that someone or something could be shot. My biggest objection to this having fought anti hunting county ordinances, is that the general public and politicians will react and further restrict gunfire and hunting in and around dwellings and municipalities. There is no doubt given the increased range of these guns a majority of hunters will gravitate towards high powered rifles as hunters will push the limits to which they can kill an animal. The IDNR knows this as they cite muzzleloader evolution as their excuse for allowing HP rifles. Which brings me to the 5 points of justification used as propaganda and it is not neutral or unbiased.

If the IDNR is going to use the fact we only limit deer and turkey for HP rifles then legalize it for turkeys too. If you are going to say rifle use will not change the harvest for deer then it should not change for turkeys either. If one reasons the challenge of turkey hunting is to call the bird in and get it close then why is it OK to shoot deer at 500 yards. What is

Comment Received 3/16/2015 2:04:02 PM

Commenter Name Thomas Duffy

City Fortville **County** HANCOCK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tpduffy5@hotmail.com

Comments Indiana is overdue for high powered rifles for hunting. Shotgun slug makers have boasted about their ballistics for newer sabot slugs for years. In my opinion many hunters don't know the true range for these sabots but realize the ballistics for the rifles and associated cartridges used.

Comment Received 3/16/2015 2:22:03 PM

Commenter Name Pete Miller

City Springville **County** GREENE **State** IN

E-Mail Address pmiller@renfroproductions.com

Comments The proposed rule to increase rifle calibers is a risk to safety. In the southern part of the state where I live, the risk seem much lower due to the hills, abundant trees and valleys present. However, in the northern half of the state and flatter land that bullet may only be stopped by dirt, house, car, human or possibly a tree. I have read where it was compared it to a muzzleloader but with a muzzleloader you only have 1 shot. This helps the hunter slow down and make that 1 shot count. Having multiple shots with a high powered rifle could result in poor judgement! This rule should not be passed based on the higher risk it presents for hunters as well as non-hunters. I have yet to talk with one hunter is for this proposal. So I question, where did the original proposal come from and what company and/or person is trying to push this through? In my opinion, this proposal will not result in adding any new hunters in the field only a higher risk to those in the field during firearms deer season. Thank you

Comment Received 3/16/2015 2:46:47 PM

Commenter Name robert cobb

City martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** in

E-Mail Address raccobb@hotmail.com

Comments I would like to see rifle cartridges larger than cal. 243 allowed for deer hunting. if there is an area or areas to exclude them it would be the large metropolitan counties. we could keep them at shotgun slugs only. please give this proposal a fair and unbiased hearing prior to voting. thank you.

Comment Received 3/16/2015 3:49:02 PM

Commenter Name Darrell Eastus

City Jonesboro **County** GRANT **State** In.

E-Mail Address d-s.eastus@sbcglobal.net

Comments As a veteran deer hunter with more than 30 years experience, I strongly oppose the proposed rule changes which would allow the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. Since record numbers of deer have been harvested in recent years, it should be plain to see that the equipment we have been using is quite adequate.

It has been suggested that since some high powered rifles have less recoil than shotguns, allowing the use of these rifles would present better opportunities for more women and youth to enter the sport. It should also be noted that since these rifles have a much greater range than shotguns, they present more of a danger from poorly aimed shots and ricochets. Much of Indiana's terrain is flat and unobstructed so these hazards are increased. Also, some of these rifles are capable of multiple rapid fire shots. Even though some muzzle loading rifles may be capable of making long range shots, the hunter knows that the first shot must be well placed because it is time consuming to reload.

If the recoil of a shotgun presents a problem for hunters, I would suggest they choose a low recoil caliber which is presently

legal such as .357 magnum or .44 magnum. These rounds are both lethal and accurate, and they produce much less recoil than shotguns.

Much is to be considered before expanding the list of legal cartridges to be used. Diameter (caliber) of the bullet is important, but even more important is the amount of power behind the bullet; this determines the effective range. Of equal importance is the type of rifle to be used. Will semi-automatics be allowed? Will assault style rifles be permitted? If so, what will be the maximum number of rounds allowed in the magazine? If a hunter is using a rifle that is capable of shots out to 1000 yards (.30-06 or .308), will it be legal to attempt such a shot?

To my knowledge none of the above questions have been publicly addressed and as you can see, allowing the use of all high power cartridges of .243 caliber and higher without covering all the angles could quite possibly compromise the safety of deer hunters as well as all others engaged in outdoor activities during firearms season.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that high powered rifles not be allowed for deer hunting in our state.

Comment Received 3/16/2015 7:20:24 PM

Commenter Name Gerald Dewayne Gilbert

City Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** IN

E-Mail Address dgilbert@lilly.com

Comments South of I70 has enough hills and valleys and timber to support using high power rifles. Some muzzleloaders today can reach out 200 yards. Only makes sense the allow high power rifles

Comment Received 3/16/2015 9:58:31 PM

Commenter Name Eric Fleming

City West Lebanon **County** WARREN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sylvanlairfarms@yahoo.com

Comments As a longtime deer hunter and avid rifle shooter, I feel that the proposed rule change to allow more Center fire rifles to be used for deer hunting is a great step in the management of the state deer herd. I can relate from experience that I have had numerous times when I had made a legitimately good shot on a deer with a shotgun slug and had it run off. I feel the allowance of heavier rifle cartridges will make deer hunting a much more humane endeavor considering the almost surgical pinpoint accuracy. Any concerns that stray rifle rounds will travel into population, whereas legitimate, I feel are are unwarranted. Most hunters today are very responsible and are attuned to the risks that they present and make every effort to mitigate any risks to the general populace.

Thank you,
Eric Fleming
Landowner and hunter

Comment Received 3/17/2015 5:49:49 AM

Commenter Name Ben Rachwal

City West Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

E-Mail Address Benrachwal@yahoo.com

Comments I support the use of center fire cartridges. Improving the lethality of deer hunting is the humane course of action. As a life long deer hunter I welcome the opportunity to improve my success rate. Because high powered rifles are more effective we will have less deer that are shot and never recovered. Killing an animal is a serious event that must be done as swiftly as possible. Most hunters hunt from an elevated stand and based on bullet trajectory the use of rifles will not decrease safety.

Comment Received 3/17/2015 6:23:25 AM

Commenter Name Danny Everage

City Borden **County** CLARK **State** IN

E-Mail Address danescorer@gmail.com

Comments Relaxing the limitations on cartridge lengths will allow the use of many rifles, including very powerful calibers. I worry that many hunters, especially novices and slobbs, will "overgun" to hunt whitetails. As a deer hunter who bowhunts and muzzleloader hunts I will be in the woods during gun seasons and therefore I have "skin in the game " when it comes to safety. I've had shotgun slugs go over my head in years past, and the thought of a careless hunter 1/2 mile away sending ammo my way scares the hell out of me. Do the folks who handle the regulations deer hunt? If they don't they are operating at a disadvantage in judgement. Thanks, and hunt safe.

Comment Received 3/17/2015 6:25:45 AM

Commenter Name Robert Lindley

City Monticello **County** WHITE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Rlindley@monticelloin.gov

Comments I haven't deer hunted last ten years due to the limit of current firearms. They just don't ensure a clean and humane kill past 100 yds.

I am for the use of modern centerfire rifles in the most popular deer hunting calibers such as the 308 winchester.

Thank you

Comment Received 3/17/2015 8:49:37 AM

Commenter Name mike edmondson
City frankfort **County** CLINTON **State** IN - Indiana
E-Mail Address mikedmondson2003@yahoo.com
Comments I think legalizing rifle cartridges is a good idea and would not increase hunting accidents.
Comment Received 3/17/2015 10:22:53 AM

Commenter Name Richard Shukle
City West Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana
Organization (optional) Purdue University
E-Mail Address shukle@purdue.edu
Comments I support the proposed change governing deer hunting equipment to include additional rifle calibers. I believe the change should be made for the reasons listed by the DNR that include: 1) currently there are no limits on rifles that are legal for species other than migratory birds, deer, and wild turkey; 2) muzzleloaders utilizing smokeless powder are essentially equivalent to high-powered rifles; 3) several states close to Indiana (Kentucky, Michigan, and Pennsylvania) allow the use of high-powered rifles; 4) no increase in hunting related accidents associated with the use of rifles in other states where they are allowed have occurred; 5) there is not a need to limit the equipment used to take deer in order to manage the Indiana deer herd; 6) rifle cartridges using a bullet of at least .243 inches in diameter and a minimum case length of 1.16 inches can safely and humanely take deer. I believe the proposed change will benefit the humane take of deer and contribute to management of the deer herd.
Comment Received 3/17/2015 2:53:44 PM

Commenter Name Jerry Wayne Harry
City MUNCIE **County** DELAWARE **State** IN
E-Mail Address mary7800@comcast.net
Comments I live in a fairly well populated area of the county and own approximately 70 semi wooded acres, next to a 5 lane highway.
 I try to prevent poachers and trespassers from accessing my land, but it is a continual battle to keep them off of my land. A DNR agent caught someone gutting a poached, untagged deer on my land two years ago, after I told the man an hour earlier and repeatedly in the 2 years prior, to stay off of my land.
 There are also many horses who are stabled and grazing in the neighborhood.
 Allowing high powered rifles is just asking for more poaching and accidental shootings. I am afraid, as it is, to go out to work outside with the idiots who are constantly shooting guns in and out of hunting season, in our neighborhood.
 Remember the lady in Connecticut who was killed by a hunter with a high powered rifle while hanging wash on her clothesline in her back yard? Why take a chance on this happening again. I know it was termed an accident but if the hunter had not been allowed to use a high powered rifle the lady would still be alive.
 In this day and age we should be trying to eliminate some of the guns in our society instead of increasing them. Our neighborhood is far to populated for hunting with high powered rifles, and the landscape in Indiana is also too flat to allow this without probable accidental shootings of livestock and people. I have a friend whose horse was killed by a hunting rifle bullet, and this proposed amendment was not in effect at that time. These type of incidents will increase by allowing high powered rifles to be used.
 312 IAC 9-3-12 is not an advisable amendment either. It will increase accidental shootings, and encourage trespassing which will increase poaching.
 I have had hunters trespassing on my land with their dogs, spotlighting the fence rows at night, cutting my fences, tearing down my no trespassing signs, and poaching game in and out of season. Neighborhood Cats have been caught and died in traps along a creek, across the street, bordering our farm land. No one was given permission to set traps on our land.
 I requested the assistance of a DNR agent last year, who never showed up, to take down 2 tree stands on my land that shouldn't be there. I am also opposed to allowing less information on deer stands. When they are on my land, and I can't get help to identify and remove them, why should we allow more privacy to the hunter?
 I don't believe in encouraging hunters, because the encounters that I've had with them have been adversarial. They don't respect my rights as a land owner. I would much rather see the wildlife, than have to attempt to deal with the lying, poaching, trespassing, destructive, killing hunters that I've encountered since I've owned this land.

Sincerely,
 Jerry W. Harry
Comment Received 3/17/2015 4:58:14 PM

Commenter Name tim hudock
City terre haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address bronco96@outlook.com
Comments Allowing rifles for deer hunting is long overdue . Please pass this rule .
Comment Received 3/17/2015 7:33:49 PM

Commenter Name Bret Rinehart

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|--|
| <p>City Flora County CARROLL State IN E-Mail Address brinehart@embarqmail.com Comments I'm in favor of the rule change allowing rifles cal. .243 and larger for Indiana deer hunting. A majority of the deer hunting with these calibers will be conducted by currently active deer hunters. I don't think it will entice a measurable number of new participants to the sport. It's not a significant factor in what attracts hunters. I will not feel the least bit less safe, however hunter Orange a must. The one negative effect on the species will be fewer trophy bucks. The increased lethal range will be successfully used against the keen senses of a clever old buck by the trophy hunter. Comment Received 3/17/2015 9:02:23 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jim Jones City Greensburg County DECATUR State IN E-Mail Address jjandonna@hotmail.com Comments I am in favor of the proposed rifle hunting changes for deer hunting. Comment Received 3/17/2015 10:15:13 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Dennis Carper City Auburn County DEKALB State Indiana E-Mail Address dcarper1@hotmail.com Comments The only problem with the 25 a day limit on bluegills is for the weekend fisherman. You work all week and can only go fishing one or two days a week, you are limited the amount of bluegills caught. Now I could understand when fisherman fish every day, but I you want a limit go to 50 bag limit on bluegills only. Redear sunfish I can understand a 25 bag limit. Why don't you start at 50 bag limit on bluegills only Comment Received 3/18/2015 10:14:32 AM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Josh Bokish City Indianapolis County MARION State IN E-Mail Address jlbokish@gmail.com Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season. Comment Received 3/18/2015 12:40:41 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Caleb Crum City Rossville County CARROLL State IN E-Mail Address cscrum01@yahoo.com Comments I am not strongly opposed to the new firearm and bullet restrictions. I would be in favor of a shell limit. I think it would be a very big safety problem to have hunters with semi-automatic rifles such as AR-10 spraying bullets everywhere close to residents and other hunters. They would be more likely to shoot multiple deer at one time, which would result in more wounded and unrecoverable deer. This is a stat that the DNR does not collect. I do not agree with opening up the urban zones to firearms, unless it is antlerless only. The extra buck rule is already easily manipulated and would be more likely to be, if hunters can use a firearm during this extended season. One thing I would like to eventually that was not on the suggested changes is to see is a separate crossbow and bow season with bow only being before firearm and crossbow/bow being after. Comment Received 3/18/2015 2:37:45 PM</p> |
| <p>Commenter Name Jared Hodge City Fishers County HAMILTON State Indiana E-Mail Address jaredohodge@gmail.com Comments The DNR believes this change can be made at this time for the following reasons:</p> <p>DNR ARGUMENT 1 - There are currently no limits on rifles that are legal to use for species other than migratory birds, deer and wild turkey.</p> <p>RESPONSE 1 - This is completely irrelevant. Based on this point, will you change the law to allow high powered rifles to hunt turkey and waterfowl too? Besides, migratory birds, deer and turkey encompass the vast majority of hunting opportunities in Indiana. Allowing rifles for deer hunting would alone exponentially increase the use of long range rifles in the state.</p> <p>DNR ARGUMENT 2 - Muzzleloaders have evolved to the point that with smokeless powder (which is legal to use), they are essentially a high-powered rifle (accurate 500-yard gun).</p> <p>RESPONSE 2 - I'm not sure where you are getting this data (since you did not cite your source), but I've been an avid hunter for 25 years and have never seen nor heard of an "accurate 500-yard" muzzleloader. If they do exist (which I seriously doubt), they definitely are not affordable or commonly used by hunters. The average muzzleloader used by deer hunters today is accurate to 75-150 yards. Not to mention muzzleloaders offer one shot, whereas rifles commonly offer five shots, enticing hunters to shoot multiple times at often running targets.</p> <p>DNR ARGUMENT 3 -They are legal in several nearby states, including Kentucky, Michigan (the northern part of the state) and Pennsylvania. There has been no increase in hunting-related accidents as the result of the use of rifles, neither in</p> |

Indiana nor in several other states where they are allowed.

RESPONSE 3 - KY, Northern MI, and PA have completely different topographies and human populations, not to mention deer populations, from IN. Southern MI is the most similar part of the 3 states mentioned in terms of topography and human population, and use of rifles is prohibited there. Why are they prohibited? OH and IL are more similar topographically than KY, MI, and PA, and rifles are not permitted there. Why? The comparison you drew isn't a fair one since IN is substantially flat with open fields, whereas states like KY and PA are substantially hilly and wooded, and northern MI, which is substantially uninhabited and wooded. Only a minority of IN (approx. 25-33% of the state) are similar to KY and PA. Therefore, such data is not helpful in predicting the likelihood of hunting-related accidents.

DNR ARGUMENT 4 - There isn't a need to limit the equipment that can be used to take deer in order to manage the deer herd. The deer harvest was a record in 2012, and the DNR is managing the deer herd through other means.

RESPONSE 4 - This argument is ludicrous. If there isn't a need to limit the equipment that can be used to take deer in order to manage the deer herd, then why is bow season four months long and firearms season only two weeks? Of course we must limit equipment to manage the herd. Further, the fact that 2012 was a record harvest does little to show that the herd is in balance. Many feel that the herd is being substantially decreased by excess harvests, the effects of which would only be revealed in harvest data after many seasons.

DNR ARGUMENT 5 - Rifle cartridges that fire a bullet at least .243 in diameter and have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches long can safely and humanely kill white-tailed deer.

RESPONSE 5 - No one is in disagreement with that point, nor was this ever a reason that rifles were prohibited in Indiana or elsewhere.

The fact that the DNR, the proponent of the rule change, can't come up with reasonable and valid points to support their position speaks volumes as to the wisdom of this proposal. This change, if consummated, will undoubtedly result in a decrease in the population of the deer herd, which has already been in decline due to disease and overharvest. Every person carrying a rifle will be substantially more lethal at much longer ranges than they would have been prior to the change, which means more deer will be killed, fewer bucks will survive, and more dangerous situations will be created. The goal of the one-buck rule was to grow bigger bucks, create a healthier herd, and offer better opportunities for sportsmen, and this change will erode the success of that process. The DNR, which has been under fire recently for causing a decline in the population of the deer herd, appears to be taking their agenda one step further at the expense of sportsmen, with an unintended but real side-effect of danger to the public. Should this proposal succeed, only two results are possible. First, a smaller deer herd, and second, if the DNR acts responsibly with respect to the shrinking herd, fewer opportunities for sportsmen. That means shorter seasons, lower bag limits, and stricter regulations. Neither of those results are something I'm interested in supporting.

Comment Received 3/18/2015 3:46:26 PM

Commenter Name David R. Simmons

City West Monroe **County** Out of State **State** New York

Organization (optional) Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

E-Mail Address president@federationofsportsmen.com

Comments The only scientifically conducted, peer reviewed study ever done on the subject of rifle/shotgun/muzzle-loader relative safety was commissioned by the Pennsylvania legislature's budget office and carried out by a combination of highly respected private contractors and the U.S. Army's ballistics research laboratories. This study concluded that, under hunting conditions, rifles were, in fact, safer than shotguns. Also, in New York State, over the past couple of decades, many counties have started allowing the use of center-fire rifles for the harvesting of big game (these were always allowed for hunting all animals, except big game species) and none of these counties has experienced any increase in hunting related incidents. In fact, the current five year average shows that shotgun related incidents are nearly 30% higher, per annum, than rifle (includes center-fire and rim-fire rifles) related incidents are. Considering those facts, why would the Indiana Legislature and Governor do anything other than approve Center-fire rifle use for deer hunting and make Indiana's deer hunters even safer than they already are.

Comment Received 3/18/2015 4:13:49 PM

Commenter Name Byron phelps

City Losantville **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Bimphelps@icloud.com

Comments I oppose the use of high powered rifles in indiana

Comment Received 3/18/2015 4:45:04 PM

Commenter Name Todd Woods

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tawoods1961@gmail.com

Comments Page 10 Under 312 IAC 9-3-4; I support the change in language from "urban" deer zone to "deer reduction" zone but the rule needs to have a sunset period to afford opportunity to affect a rule change to affect a change if the spirit of

the rule is not being met, ie; combat urban deer populations, combat outbreak of disease in the herd (CWD, TB). Additionally, in urban areas weapons choices need to be restricted to archery equipment, shotguns.

Comment Received 3/18/2015 7:40:08 PM

Commenter Name Robert L Weisgerber
City Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana
E-Mail Address weisgerber@comcast.net

Comments I'm opposed to allowing high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting. My family and I hunt in Fountain County and our property is surrounded on all four sides by others who hunt. Two sides have hunting leases where numerous people hunt. We don't want or need hunters with high powered rifles shooting at deer aligned with our property. It's just not safe!

Comment Received 3/18/2015 7:46:51 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Denny
City Valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana
E-Mail Address Jdenny705@yahoo.com

Comments I am for opening up the Indiana Deer Season to high powered rifles. I do not think doing this will lead more hunting accidents. I hope this change passes and goes into effect this fall.

Comment Received 3/18/2015 7:57:11 PM

Commenter Name Jeff Denny
City Valparaiso County PORTER State Indiana
E-Mail Address Jdenny705@yahoo.com

Comments I am for opening up the Indiana Deer Season to high powered rifles. I do not think doing this will lead more hunting accidents. I hope this change passes and goes into effect this fall.

Comment Received 3/18/2015 7:58:16 PM

Commenter Name Mark Sutton
City Jeffersonville County CLARK State Indiana
E-Mail Address Suttonbot@gmail.com

Comments By allowing the use of high powered rifle cartridges on deer, we would benefit from less wounded animals and more clean kills. Please pass this.

Comment Received 3/19/2015 8:39:26 AM

Commenter Name Raymond A. Grangier
City New Albany County FLOYD State Indiana
E-Mail Address rgrangier@yahoo.com

Comments I live and hunt in the southern part of the state. Over the last several years I have noticed a considerable drop in the number of hunters around the public areas I hunt on. I know a lot of Indiana hunters that hunt in other states that allow high power rifles. I support this rule change in the hope it will bring and keep more hunters in our State. I currently hunt with a 44 mag rifle, due to injuries I can't handle the recoil of shotguns. I feel the high power rifles will do a better job of a clean and humane kill than the current pistol calibers.

Comment Received 3/19/2015 9:55:42 AM

Commenter Name Jesse Comer
City Osgood County RIPLEY State Indiana
E-Mail Address jdcomer@frontier.com

Comments The proposed rule for allowing center fire rifles in this state is not safe for use in most areas of the state. I am a current hunter in this state and I am 100% against the use of rifles as legal shooting equipment for deer.

Comment Received 3/19/2015 10:03:05 AM

Commenter Name Jeff Hart
City gentryville County SPENCER State in
E-Mail Address leahhart@psci.net

Comments I would like to see the use of lever gun ammo to be used during the deer season such as 30-30,.35 rem,444,45-70 that woud keep the max ranges around 250yrds but still let everyone enjoy the use of different rifles

Comment Received 3/19/2015 11:22:12 AM

Commenter Name Michael R. Landess
City Michigan City County LAPORTE State IN
E-Mail Address mcsportsman@comcast.net

Comments I would like to see 35 caliber Rifle's legalized for deer hunting. The 35 caliber is legal for Pistols but not Rifles at this time. Legally I could use the 35 caliber for squirrel hunting shooting upwards towards trees but I'm not allowed to use them on the ground. This does not make any sense to me. I also think that we are giving out to many antlerless Deer permits causing the size of the Deer herds to drastically decline in many areas of Indiana. I believe that some areas need to have lower numbers of antlerless tags allowed. The DNR needs to monitor special hunts that have been allowed in some areas. Specifically Beverly Shores Ind. You use to be able to drive thru Beverly Shores and see small herds in Beverly Shores. Now your lucky if you see 1 or 2 Deer in 3 or 4 drive thru's,with the Indiana Dunes State park on one side and The

Indiana National Lakeshore Park on the other side we should see at least a Deer or two on a drive thru. I hope that my views will be taken into consideration as I have been quite active in the hunting and driving thru of these areas for over 40 years now and do very much enjoy taking my Grand Children thru these areas.

Comment Received 3/19/2015 1:27:41 PM

Commenter Name carl blackburn

City petersburg **County** PIKE **State** ind

E-Mail Address carlandconnie29@yahoo.com

Comments at least have a shell size you can buy at a gun store and not have to have one custom made YES FOR THE RULE

Comment Received 3/19/2015 4:52:41 PM

Commenter Name Gregory Mancilla

City Crown Point **County** LAKE **State** IN

E-Mail Address gregmancilla@gmail.com

Comments This is and will be then end of deer hunting in the state of Indiana if for one you allow the use of high powered centerfire rifles in the regular firearms season and two if you do adopt this rule change without any adjustments in the firearms season dates. It is more than apparent that you have chosen to use several neighboring states as expales but said states do have completely different geographical characteristics than Indiana does. Second you state that modern muzzleloading rifles are able to shoot ethical shots at ranges up to 500 yards. That is completely untrue and question where you have gathered that information from as there are a small number of custom muzzloaders that can shoot up to 300 yards but are out of reach economically for most hunters. With adopting this proposal would devastate hunting in this state. No where in the proposal do you mention the states of Ohio, Iowa and Illinois who share the same geographical characteristics of our state. They have shortened firearms seasons usually at the end of the rut or just out of the rut which promotes bigger and more mature deer in the herd with maintaining the ability to use reduction methods in and out of said seasons. You also mention that 2012 was a record harvest, that was over 2 years ago and have since seen a dramatic decline in deer since. Kansas is a state that does have a rifle season but their DNR has put in effect the proper measures and runs that season well past the primary rut but with the wide open expanses of the plains there are no safety issues there. Michigan is also used in your reference but just a few years ago they too revamped their regulations and made the southern portion shotgun and muzzleloader only so how is it that you can conciously even use that as part of your proposal. Hunters in the state already have access issues now with more and more hunters losing access to private property and this will only make it harder to find quality land to hunt. Over the past several years you have done nothing but increase the ever liberal bag limits set forth by your administration. License fees continue to rise, state wildlife areas continue their decline in management and investment. It is unfathomable to me that this is even actually being considered but yet I would come to expect nothing less from the Indiana DNR. I have a two year old son whom I would like nothing less than being able to teach him how to hunt when he is of age but this absolute disregard for wildlife, hunter and heritage I can guarantee he will not be able to enjoy the outdoors as I have as the detrimental effects of mismanagement will cause nothing but a catastrophic decline in herd and hunting opportunities. I am absolutely one hundred percent opposed to this proposal.

Comment Received 3/19/2015 9:52:21 PM

Commenter Name Justin Poole

City Tell City **County** PERRY **State** IN

E-Mail Address poole567@gmail.com

Comments High power rifle usage would be great for the hunters of Indiana.

Comment Received 3/20/2015 3:03:09 AM

Commenter Name Brian McNew

City Memphis **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Brian.mcnew@twc.com

Comments I agree with the proposed changes regarding rifle cartridges.

Comment Received 3/20/2015 11:31:32 AM

Commenter Name Brian McNew

City Memphis **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Brian.mcnew@twc.com

Comments I agree with the proposed changes regarding rifle cartridges.

Comment Received 3/20/2015 11:33:15 AM

Commenter Name Ben O'Neal

City Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

E-Mail Address boneal@franklincollege.edu

Comments As a a trained wildlife biologist (B.A., M.Sc., and Ph.D.), someone who has been deer hunting for 25 years, and a tax payer, I strongly oppose the allowance of high-powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana.

Comment Received 3/20/2015 3:51:50 PM

Commenter Name Donald Epple

City Branchville **County** PERRY **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address pamdon@psci.net

Comments Hello, I am a Lifetime License holder. I am 61 now and will be 62 next month. All my life I have wanted to hunt with a quality high powered rifle. I have written before. There will be no long letter here as I have already written one. I beg of you, I plead with you, please pass the .243 and larger rule.

Sincerely, Donald M. Epple

Comment Received 3/20/2015 8:59:38 PM

Commenter Name Cory Kern

City Scottsburg **County** SCOTT **State** IN

E-Mail Address corykern@live.com

Comments I think high powered rifles will allow for better shot placement and more humane kills in most cases, and has not proven to be any more dangerous than current options in surrounding states that have allowed rifle hunting previously.

Comment Received 3/21/2015 12:56:40 AM

Commenter Name Russell Goodman

City Palmyra **County** HARRISON **State** IN

E-Mail Address porscheboyus@yahoo.com

Comments Thank you for taking the time to hear from us on this important issue of the proposed firearm legislation being considered here in 2015. My father and I are fans of the current legislation limiting the case length of cartridges to 1.8 inches cases which causes either custom firearm manufacturing or the use of a lever action rifle in cowboy loads. I can see both sides of the debate over just legalizing all high powered rifle calibers for deer hunting in Indiana. On one side you have the people who would like to use say .243 for their children to deer hunt with because of the low recoil and apparent accuracy. However, by having the majority of hunters using high powered rifles we gain new issues. A .243 while may be light recoiling and adequate for safely harvesting a white tailed deer to easily 200 yards. In the hands of an inexperienced hunter, that same .243 can travel with possibly lethal at two miles. We hunt in the hills of southern Indiana, and we could see inexperienced hunters firing high powered rifles on hill tops or on embankments causing the projectiles to be dangerous to other hunters. My father will not allow his grandchildren to used anything but a muzzle loader to learn to hunt with, due to the slow, heavy, bullets and the limit to one shot. Our concerns lay not with the experienced hunter who knows what they are doing but to the novice learning.

Comment Received 3/21/2015 9:28:42 AM

Commenter Name Robert Goodman

City Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** in

E-Mail Address guzzibob@gmail.com

Comments 3 reasons to consider when looking at high powered rifles for deer hunting. 1. Young Hunters: White tail deer is the most popular game do to all the hype (TV coverage and advertising). 2. Hunting property is getting very hard to find. This puts most of our new (young) hunters together on limited public ground. 3. Young hunters have very little experience (example running shot at a skyline deer) now give them a repeating rifle that will travel for miles. That's just a recipe for trouble. We all want to teach our new sportsman ethics. Take time to make a well placed shot to make a humane kill. This is easy with a single shot (I prefer a muzzle loader for my grandsons) but very difficult with the knowledge that I multiple shots! Our new (Young) sportsman's are the foundation of the sport. We have an obligation to help them

Comment Received 3/21/2015 9:36:34 AM

Commenter Name BOB ELEY

City PENDLETON **County** MADISON **State** INDIANA

E-Mail Address RMELEY2@AOL.COM

Comments I am opposed to allowing the use of rifles to hunt deer.

Comment Received 3/21/2015 9:51:05 AM

Commenter Name William LaVigne

City Ft.Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address woodnfish@msn.com

Comments Dear Persons at the NRC and DFW,

I'm writing concerning the proposed rules and regulations for the new minimum size limit on walleyes.

Over the last several years I've been asked by creel clerks many times if I supported a new 16" minimum size for walleyes. I always responded I was in favor of it, as I understand the DNR has a lot of money tied up in these larger fingerling fish. It only makes sense to have them in the water for a longer time period. I'm sure that this isn't a 100% unanimous opinion, but it's still a very sound one.

As I read the new proposals though, to say the least, I'm terribly confused.

I thought that all the waters North of State Road 26, that includes the lakes and the St. Joe and Elkhart rivers, were to have a "NEW" regulation that the minimum size for walleyes would be 16". The only "EXCEPTION" was that at Wall Lake the limit was reduced to two fish that were at least 16" long. I realize that in some lakes there may be slow growth, and therefore require the Fisheries Department to make "special" regulations. But the new proposal seems to have more "exceptions" than

"standard".

To have a regulation that allows a 15" fish to be legal below a dam and illegal above a dam, seems to be unwise. We all know that some fish placed above a dam will make their way downstream.

While I support the 16" minimum size limit on walleye, it should also include the St. Joseph and Elkhart rivers. I believe anglers will be surprised and disappointed to see them listed as exemptions which doesn't appear consisted with the original rule proposal.

Thank you,

Bill LaVigne
7821 Sunderland Drive.
Ft. Wayne, In 46835-1247
woodnfish@msn.com

Comment Received 3/22/2015 11:39:40 AM

Commenter Name Jim Mitchell

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** IN

E-Mail Address merilynn@netscape.com

Comments I support the rule to allow rifles to be used for deer hunting. However I believe that semi-automatic rifles should have a magazine capacity of no more than 5 cartridgesmagazines of larger capacity must be permanently modified to the 5 cartridge limit.

Comment Received 3/22/2015 4:04:51 PM

Commenter Name Gary LaRue

City Fort wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address glarue2@frontier.com

Comments To the Committee of the NRC and DFW,

This is in regards to the proposed regulation changes of the minimum size limit on Walleyes in our Northern Lakes. I believe that the Fisheries Dept. has done an outstanding job of establishing a Walleye Fishery for us but with all of different rules it can be confusing. To have part of the Northern Indiana under a 15 inch rule and the another part a 16 in rule is a bit confusing. The state has spent a lot of money stocking the Walleyes with the larger fingerling fish. This effort to make a wonderful fishing experience of catching Walleyes and not driving 200 miles is outstanding. Changing the rule to make all of the state north of State Road 26 to a 16 inch size limit is a great idea. Not all will agree with this but we need to protect the state's investment in the stocking program.

If we make this change north of Road 26 it should include the St. Joseph and Elkhart River Systems. One size limit not two different size limits. We have enough exemptions to deal with in our Regulations but this change seems to be an easy rule to fix.

Thanks

Gary LaRue
727 Ludwig Park Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
Glarue2@frontier.com

Comment Received 3/23/2015 12:52:17 PM

Commenter Name Michael Lothamer

City Woodburn **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mslothamer@yahoo.com

Comments I am in favor of amendment 31 2IAC 9-7-10 that limits the daily bag limit of sunfish to 25. I would like to see regulations limiting the size of sunfish a person could keep. Nine inches or bigger should be thrown back if we want to improve the quality of sunfish. I realize this would be a nightmare for Conversation Officers to enforce, therefore unrealistic. Maybe awareness for "catch and release" for large sunfish like bass. Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts and comments.

Comment Received 3/23/2015 3:37:00 PM

Commenter Name Josh Trine

City Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address joshtrine16@gmail.com

Comments I would like to comment on 3 rules. I cannot give exact rules because I have tried for over an hour to find the specific rules and cant. I have never seen anything this complicated in my life. So rule #1 is the rule allowing landowners, tenants, relatives, friends and basically whoever to trap and remove a nuisance wild animal from their property any time of year as long as they don't charge. A landowner him or herself is one thing but basically anyone who owns a trap as long as they don't charge for it? I mean think about that, that's basically an open trapping season. I am a Nuisance Control Permit holder and I am the small city of Kokomo. This rule if adapted it would completely destroy my business that I am trying so

hard to build up. We as nuisance permit holders must keep logs and report all animals caught from each county and how they were caught and if they were released or put down. Do you honestly think every person is going to do that? No way!!!! We had an outdoor show at our visitors center in Kokomo on Indiana 931 back in January and I had a booth set up advertising my business. If I would have had a dollar for each person that said they just bought their own trap and trap the animal themselves and "dump it out in the country" then I would have almost had enough money to pay for my booth space for the 2 day show. Although that is completely illegal, how many more people are going to do this if this rule is passed??? Disease will be spread greater, your efforts of populations and numbers will be way off do to people doing this and again it will destroy small businesses like myself and others that don't have the clients from big city's such as Indy or Fort Wayne. A landowner who pays taxes is one thing, but the tenant, family members, employees, relatives, or friends should have no right at all to trap wild animals just because they don't charge. If this is the case then why does anyone have to have a nuisance control permit??? They should have to have a permit or us nuisance control operators shouldn't have to have a permit. Rule #2 is the continuing education of 32 hours down to 16 hours. I personally enjoy these classes and have learned something each time but they are not very long classes which means not a lot of hours racked up which means if you miss them you don't end up getting your hours by the end of 4 years. If you want to make it 16 hours then so be it but the nuisance control operators won't be getting much continued education. If it is kept at 32 hours then more ways and more classes should be offered because it's extremely hard to make every single class. It does cost gas, it does cost time away from jobs, but it is beneficial and things can be learned from these classes. 16 hours is not enough in my opinion but then 32 hours is way too much with no more classes being offered then what is. I live in Kokomo and went to Fort Harrison state park last week and next week to Greenwood...that's 2 trips to Indy for a total of 5 classroom hours...that's hard to keep afloat and reach the 32 hours that way but yet again 16 hours in 4 years? 4 hours a year? Don't think anyone is going to learn much from that. Rule #3 short and simple...Deer hunting is my number one passion, but high powered rifles? Not sure in your areas but up here in central and north central Indiana you can't hunt without seeing houses nearby in the distance...there are more than enough coyotes ruining the deer herd and destroying the deer population, I don't believe high powered rifles is necessary...this isn't Iowa, Kansas, Wyoming...its heavily populated rural areas in Indiana. Potential for ALOT more accidents with more high powered rifle deer hunting. Thank you for your time.

Comment Received 3/23/2015 4:35:28 PM

Commenter Name philip atkinson
City Fowler County BENTON State IN
E-Mail Address mlfarm@hotmail.com

Comments I believe the introduction of high powered rifles during deer season is ill advised, both from a safety and efficiency standpoint. Here in Benton County, our landscape is flat with few trees to stop the rifle bullets. I have personally seen slobbs shoot at running deer back grounded against the horizon. It was fortunate that someone wasn't driving down the road at the wrong time. The use of longer reaching rifles in this county is of major concern. I noticed the proposed rule changes mentioned that a muzzle loader is a viable 500 yard weapon. This is bs. The inclusion of language such as that will only increase the wounding of deer and decrease safety. There are adequate numbers of slobbs that stretch the effective range of rifles and muzzle loaders without the encouragement of the dnr staff. In Benton and surrounding counties the deer herd has been greatly reduced, either by hunting or EHD. The use of rifles would only reduce the herd to lower numbers. I believe enough deer are being harvested already utilizing the current weapons. As far as surrounding states using rifles safely, it only takes one fatality to be a tragedy. I prefer to think Indiana is a unique state and does not need to be a follower. Thank you very much. Phil Atkinson

Comment Received 3/23/2015 5:28:28 PM

Commenter Name Jeffrey Creek
City Bloomington County MONROE State Indiana
E-Mail Address jeffcreek@comcast.net

Comments I use a 500 smith and Wesson mag. in a 26 in rifle barrel now that has more energy and range than all most all of new rifle purposed rifle cartridges. (300 grain bullet with muzzle velocity of 2600 FPS and muzzle energy of 4250 Foot pounds), I have been using a 15" pistol with a .308 win. round(150 grain bullet with velocity 2650 FPS) for 20 years. I have been using a 50 cal. mag muzzle loader with a 175 grain bullet that exceeds a 7mm mag round in energy and in flight range and all legally for 20 years. Will I go get a 243 win? No I all ready have much more powerful, and longer ranged weapons now , but I pay a high price to do so. I work as a trauma nurse in a large hospital ED. We don't see injuries from current use long ranges from guns at long range, but rather point blank hits from the hunter him or herself, or his or her hunting partners.. Most of what we see is injuries from falling out of tree stands without proper use of a safety restraint. Make that a law! Jeff Creek RN .

Comment Received 3/23/2015 9:56:20 PM

Commenter Name Anthony Yankauskas
City Hebron County PORTER State IN
E-Mail Address tgyank@netnitco.net

Comments Concerning the rule change of deer hunting with most any rifle cartridge. Indiana has absolutely no logical reason to increase caliber size for deer hunting. I've deer hunted Indiana for 36 years with bow, muzzle loader, and shotgun. These weapons have a far less distance/accuracy capability than the cartridges you have proposed. Traditional Indiana deer hunting is all about forest/farmland fair chase. Your argument about coyote hunters using higher caliber rifles and 500 yard muzzle loaders is a very small percentage of our hunters. Many of us use our rifles to hunt out west where the terrain and hunting pressure is more favorable for their purpose. I sincerely hope you do not allow the rifle caliber change.

Comment Received 3/23/2015 10:43:47 PM

Commenter Name Thomas Roller
City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address troller600@aol.com
Comments I am against allowing use of rifle cartridges primarily for safety reasons. The state is achieving deer harvest targets without rifles. Why decrease the safety for "convenience" reasons. A 30-06 can travel 7 miles and some calibers even farther. Someone will be shot inadvertently if this rule passes. Michigan does not allow rifle use in the southern tier because of safety. Again, what is the purpose of decreasing safety. Increasing risks to get the same result makes no sense..
Comment Received 3/23/2015 10:57:12 PM

Commenter Name Christine Roller
City Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address croller600@aol.com
Comments A target shooter 1 1/2 miles away put a 30-06 bullet through my neighbor's barn inadvertently. If we have hunters shooting at a running deer, worse could happen. Please do not allow rifle use; it increases the possibility of an accident. The reason given for change is "convenience". Lower safety for convenience is a bad deal.
Comment Received 3/23/2015 11:14:27 PM

Commenter Name Tom Roller
City Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address 1troller600@att.net
Comments Around Jefferson County there are a lot of hills but there is great hunter density on small parcels. I would be very concerned about safety with hunters trying long distance shots on nearby properties. I have rifles for use in Texas and upper Michigan deer hunting but I will stick with a shotgun and muzzle loader in Indiana. I personally do not want to see or cause an accident happen. There is no compelling reason to add high power rifles that shoot miles and therefore lower safety.
Comment Received 3/23/2015 11:31:21 PM

Commenter Name Daniel Rowe
City Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address hoosiercanuck@gmail.com
Comments Just want to say that as a deer hunter, with 2 teenagers who deer hunt I am COMPLETELY IN FAVOR of the rule allowing High Powered Rifle Cartridges in Indiana. I think it will be a great rule change and one that is overdue for Indiana.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 9:41:53 AM

Commenter Name Barton Cooper
City Milltown **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address barton.cooper@frontier.com
Comments Add statement below to archery season-
 (1) A. A person shall not be in possession of a rifle or shotgun capable of taking deer white hunting during archery season.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:06:20 AM

Commenter Name Phil Yankauskas
City Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** IN
E-Mail Address phil@starooftechs.com
Comments I am opposed to the passing of the additional rifles to be used by reducing the bullet size required to .243 and eliminating the maximum rifle cartridge case length. The prospect of 1000 yd. guns in the hands of a quarter million deer hunters in the state of Indiana at one time is mind boggling to the safety of the hunting and non-hunting population. Two thirds of Indiana is open farmland with homes on every county road.
 Just the safety concerns of this cartridge change in my home based counties of Porter, Lake, Jasper and northern counties create huge safety concerns. I have spent nearly 20 years of my 35 plus years of deer hunting career pursuing whitetails in the Hoosier national forest, central portion of the state around the Wabash River and various southern counties. The legal cartridge sizes in the past have always been more than adequate to pursue whitetails in any of these counties and at the same time promoted safety afield.
 The tradition of Indiana deer hunting with these weapons always promoted to develop your skills with limited range weapons which develop better hunters afield. Nearby states Kentucky, Northern Michigan and Pennsylvania have had an increase in hunting related accidents as the result of the use of rifles. Southern Michigan has a very similar landscape to northern Indiana and rifles are not legal there. Ohio and Illinois are open and populated states like Indiana and they do not use high powered rifles either.
 The coyote hunters do not have limits on cartridge size; they do not even use cartridges in 300 Winchester magnums or similar cartridge sizes. They represent approximately 1/4% to maybe 2% of the 200,000 deer hunters in the field on opening weekend. The majority of coyote hunters I know pursue coyotes after deer season is over and the population of deer hunters afield are greatly minimized.
 Our deer population has reduced from EHD in 2012 the liberal limits of over harvesting does and the addition of extended urban seasons for the complete counties of Lake and Porter already. It is the norm now to see more bucks than does in a day of hunting where I hunt in Porter County. The proposed rifle change would also decrease our deer herd and the

wounded deer numbers would increase along with the safety concerns.
 The statement concerning 500 yd. shot capability from muzzle-loaders is greatly exaggerated. The majority of smokeless powder shooters I know would not even consider a 500 yard shot. Yes there are a few muzzle loaders that can load 200 grains of powder but this does not make it a 500 yard gun like some think. I am opposed also to the use of firearms in the deer reduction zones (formerly urban deer zones) seasons, where legal to discharge a firearm. These hunts should remain for archery and the new addition of crossbows only.
 The use of 28 gauge slugs that are now available gives women, younger apprentice hunters, an recoil sensitive shooters another alternative for hunting deer.
 Firearms that were originally designed and registered as rifles should remain as rifles and not legalized as combination rifle/handgun (rifles that are converted to handguns) Examples AR Platform 308 caliber rifles should not be legalized because the stock is removed and converted with accessories to be called a rifle /handgun conversion, 243 and similar conversions should also remain not legal as rifle/handgun conversion
 Hunter awareness concerning the carry distance of some of the cartridges alone is not understood by many and this alone creates a severe concern by not having the proper backdrop to stop a projectile. This alone is an alarming thought. The hunts that I do out west with rifles for deer, and pronghorn, is the correct environment for these weapons not in Indiana. This debate can go on and on, but the number one priority afield is safety, I do not see how these rule changes could do anything except reduce the safety afield when the number of hunters in the woods is the highest during the deer season.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:19:10 AM

Commenter Name Eric Pettit
City North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana
E-Mail Address ericpettit30@hotmail.com
Comments I think allowing center fire rifles is long over due and think it's great you are realizing this and adding them this year.
 I do think you are doing some disservice to children and some women by not allowing anything smaller than a .243. There are several great deer rounds under this criteria that are much more women/kid friendly.
 Rather than excluding these rounds I think we should allow any center fire rifle cartridge (excluding fmj) like KY has, it has worked well for them.
 Thanks for all you do.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:28:57 AM

Commenter Name Mark Fisk
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN
E-Mail Address mfisk@tlf-engineers.com
Comments I am opposed to any changes in the allowable bullets (cartridges) that can be used in a pistol or rifle for deer hunting. My concern is that too many hunters in Indiana are inexperienced and this change would increase the risk of a dangerous accident. I am a deer hunter myself and I believe we all ready have ample opportunities to enjoy deer hunting in a safe manner using shotgun, muzzleloader, pistol, rifle, archery and cross bow.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:41:03 AM

Commenter Name Molly Fisk
City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN
E-Mail Address mollyfisk10@gmail.com
Comments I am opposed to any changes in the allowable bullets (cartridges) that can be used in a pistol or rifle for deer hunting. I oppose this change because of safety reasons and feel there are all ready enough options available for hunters to hunt deer with that we don't need to make any more changes to the regulations.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:44:53 AM

Commenter Name Bart d. Kiefer
City vincennes **County** KNOX **State** indiana
E-Mail Address bdkiefer1979@gmail.com
Comments Myself am against the proposed change. Whatever happened to the days of old when you would go out, scout your area and have fun freezing your rear off. There are so many far reaching ramifications of this proposed change. Aside from the safety issue, there is also the decimating effect it will have on the herd. At the very maximum if the proposed rule is passed set aside a separate week of hunting at the end of the season. Why do we need to have a larger arsenal for someone to feel justified to harvest a deer? Get out there and find your spot to harvest a deer, not an open field of 500 yards to maximize your chances. Once again I am totally opposed to this rule.
Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:49:04 AM

Commenter Name Daragh Deegan
City Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** IN
E-Mail Address deeganfamily3@aol.com
Comments I would like to comment on the proposed size limit rule for walleye.

Last year, I submitted comments to the NRC supporting the proposed 16 inch walleye limit rule for public waters North of SR 26. As an angler who targets walleye primarily on the St. Joseph River, I was under the impression that these rule changes would apply to the St. Joseph and the lower portion of the Elkhart River. As the proposed rule appears on the Division of

Fish and Wildlife webpage, a 15 inch size limit exception applies to the St. Joseph and Lower Elkhart Rivers.

I am confused as to why the St. Joseph River and lower Elkhart River were not also considered for the size limit change to 16 inches. This exception was not mentioned in the initial proposal. I would like to see both rivers included in the new size limit proposal.

Thank you,

Daragh Deegan
434 Westwood Road
Goshen, IN 46526

Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:51:21 AM

Commenter Name Toby Gilman

City Summitville **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ttgilman@sbcglobal.net

Comments I think allowing rifles is a good rule and I'm all for it

Comment Received 3/24/2015 11:10:01 AM

Commenter Name Travis McEwen

City Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** IN

E-Mail Address Gusmc01@gmail.com

Comments We have never had problems harvesting deer in Indiana with the weapons that have been available to us. Adding rifles is a solution looking for a problem where there isn't one. Arguing that we should allow rifles in Indiana because Michigan allows them is a half truth; rifles are not allowed in the southern third of Michigan, the part of the state most similar to the geography in Indiana. Arguing that we should allow high powered rifles for deer because they are allowed for predators also carries little weight as there are thousands more deer hunters in the woods during deer season than there are predator hunters. Beyond the obvious safety issues of arming thousands of hunters in close quarters and urban areas with high powered rifles, there is another problem with the idea. Our deer herd in Indiana has been under tremendous pressure over the past 4 or 5 seasons. By design the herd has been declining....extra seasons have been added, pistol cartridges and crossbows have been allowed, bag limits have been increased. As a hunter, I can say firsthand that these changes have had a very noticeable impact on the herd. I see far fewer deer and have far fewer opportunities to harvest deer than I did five or ten years ago. Adding rifles would only exacerbate the problem. Our neighbors, Illinois and Ohio, manage to harvest all the deer they need with shorter gun seasons and short-range weapons without introducing the dangers of high powered rifles to their open terrain. These states have listened to the hunters, who want the opportunity to see and harvest mature deer. To create that opportunity, they have shortened their gun seasons, moved them out of the primary rut, and maintained policies for short range weapons only. As a result, they have a thriving hunting industry and satisfied resident hunters. Ohio's top deer biologist says that the complaints they receive about low deer numbers always come from the counties that border Indiana. I'm a hunter and I have concerns about the safety of high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. But I have even more concerns about the future of our deer and deer hunting given our present management policies. I would like to see us adopt the proven formula used by our neighboring states of shorter gun seasons, reduced bag limits, and moving the season out of the primary rut. Until that happens, I would favor the continued use of short range weapons only in Indiana. They have been perfectly adequate up until now and with advances in technology, today's shotguns and muzzle loaders are capable of harvesting deer at the maximum distances necessary in Indiana.

Comment Received 3/24/2015 11:50:32 AM

Commenter Name Ed Shreve

City Crown Point **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address sandyshreve@att.net

Comments I think that 312-IAC-9-3-3 should include a safety requirement making it mandatory to wear an orange vest or coat because orange hats are not visible enough. As a forty year hunter I see more people covering up their orange hat with a camo sweatshirt hood making them invisible at any distance. But I vote yes for the new rifle proposals. Safety first.

Comment Received 3/24/2015 1:36:32 PM

Commenter Name Cecilia Hennessy LaBonte

City Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

Organization (optional) Purdue University

E-Mail Address cecilia.hennessy@gmail.com

Comments I support the change to rule 312 IAC 9-5-6, section (c), wherein it is stated that no more than 4 turtles of the approved list may be taken. This is an improvement over the previous limit of 25.

I DO NOT support the change to rule 312 AIC 9-2-4, section (2), wherein the term "written" was struck from the rule regarding permission to trap coyotes on a private landowner's property. It is my opinion that the term "written" should be retained, as otherwise it makes it too easy for a trapper to set traps on a neighbor's property and the burden of proof that permission was granted is lowered too far. Coyote leghold traps run the risk of trapping dogs, and neighbors must be made aware if leghold traps are on their property, especially if they have dogs. They also must be made aware so that traps can be checked regularly, as coyotes do not deserve the cruel death of starving or dying of thirst. I strongly oppose this

proposed change. Thank you.

Comment Received 3/24/2015 2:23:44 PM

Commenter Name Ryan Gick

City Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address subzero350@frontier.com

Comments I would only like to voice my opinion that I'm in favor of the proposed rule change that would legalize all rifle cartridges larger than .243 cal for deer hunting, statewide, in Indiana (except where prohibited by local ordinances).

I know there has been a lot of resistance to this proposed rule change, but I think most of the opponents are speaking out against it because they are misinformed about the laws of physics.

Anyone who opposes the legalization of all rifle cartridges for deer hunting (.243 cal and larger) should read the Pennsylvania Rifle Study. Among other things, it found that the slower and heavier shotgun slugs (currently legal in this state) have a much higher tendency to ricochet and travel farther after a ricochet or deflection (retaining enough energy to still be lethal) than the faster traveling rifle rounds that have much less mass. It found the rifle rounds tended to penetrate the ground or trees and stop, rather than ricocheting or defecting off of these obstructions like shotgun slugs tend to do. I understand that on the face of it, this seems to contradict conventional wisdom - but this is what the Pennsylvania Rifle Study proved happens. Their study went on to show that the faster rifle rounds were in fact NOT more dangerous than shotgun slugs when used by responsible hunters.

Indiana law currently permits all rifle cartridges to be used to hunt Coyote. If they are safe enough to use to hunt Coyote, why are they not safe enough to use to hunt deer with?

Comment Received 3/24/2015 2:45:48 PM

Commenter Name Marian Harvey

City Roachdale **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Hoosiers 4-Healthy Animal Agriculture

E-Mail Address harveymarian@yahoo.com

Comments Deerhunting, high-powered rifles <http://www.whas11.com/story/news/local/indiana/2014/12/17/indiana-deer-hunting-high-powered-rifles/20535947/>

It's been a relentless Congressional Session for those of us advocating for the Earth/Animals/Environment/Ethics. I apologize for the last minute comment. Please think deeply, pray if you do, before approving high power rifle hunting in Indiana. It is unconscionable in our Culture of Violence to perpetuate high power rifles anywhere. Devastated by Industrialized Agriculture, Hoosier woodlands are shrunk, without even hedgerows. Deer have nowhere to go. Fair chase from a Deer stand at baited sites? Man is not a fair Predator, but if those Predators who obey the Laws of Nature are restored, the entire ecosystem is repaired and balances. There are more humane ways to control the deer population. (I highly recommend the book Feral, Searching for Enchantment on the Frontiers of Rewilding by George Monbiot. Please open yourself to the possibility that Killing, especially with high powered rifles, is no longer appropriate to the challenges of our world today. This issue needs public dialogue, deep talking and listening...not more guns! Indiana already boasts Fenced/Internet Hunting, Live Bait Dog Training with Coyotes/Foxes, Puppy Mills, Dog Fighting, Dog Racing, poor Spay/Neuter ordinances, and the relentless expansion of Confined Animal Feeding Operations. Do we really want those kind of Tourists, these infamous activities attract?

Comment Received 3/24/2015 3:47:20 PM

Commenter Name John Wisley

City Heltonville **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address johnwisley@icloud.com

Comments I want to preface my comments by stating that I currently manufacture rifles of my own design that fall within the parameters set up by the DNR. I am also an Indiana Hunters Ed instructor. Even though the adaptation of this proposal will put manufacturers like myself out of business, I strongly support opening up the law to include additional cartridges. From a ballistic standpoint I do not believe most common cartridges will pose any more of a safety danger than those we currently allow. Neither do I believe that adding these cartridges will make a huge difference in the overall number of deer that are harvested. I do think the passage of these changes will provide a temporary boost for Indiana gun shops. Thank you for taking time to read this.

Comment Received 3/24/2015 4:26:35 PM

Commenter Name rusty paugh

City connersville **County** FAYETTE **State** ind

E-Mail Address r6269@msn.com

Comments i say no to center fire 243 and up

Comment Received 3/24/2015 5:21:16 PM

Commenter Name David F. Delaney

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** indiana

Organization (optional) None

E-Mail Address eelriver50@yahoo.com

Comments The internal DNR report relative to high powered rifles:
My summary from information provided by the DNR.

Gentlemen:

1. The report indicates that IA (Iowa) has a rifle season for deer or big game hunting. I'm not sure that it does, but maybe and maybe only for does in certain parts of the state.
2. Reported data suggests only UT, VT, WY, MO, FL, NC, SD, AL and NV allows statewide use. Odd that almost none of those states has any resemblance of Indiana in regard to geography. I do believe KY allows statewide use but it appears KY didn't respond to the agency survey.
3. OR, WY, NH, AR, MN, WI, NY, CO, IA and GA does apparently have some sort of restriction of use in certain areas of their state, as we know that Michigan does as well.
4. NH has restrictions apparently related to housing density. GA states public safety as a reason for restriction. MN apparently restricts in at least one metro area. MI refers to population density as a reason for the statewide restriction. Some other states apparently restrict on deer management and herd number concerns. IL states that geographic layout of the state and the number of hunters as a restriction concern.
5. NH apparently has a 5 shot restriction for rifles. SD has a 6 cartridge restriction per firearm, no full auto.

When our DNR suggests that they talked to other states, it would seem that they either only asked certain states or their survey was responded to only by certain states. Some of the irony seems to be that most of the states without restriction or such are located far away from the "farm belt". As such, it makes one question the representation that some in the agency are making in regard to their checking with other states and that there is no safety issue. Such a blanket statement by DNR management is not supported by the survey results.

Also, nowhere does it appear the agency asked other states if there are further regulations in regard to the amount of hunter orange that is required to be worn during firearms season. This would seem to suggest that the safety issue was not fully addressed or assessed. If it had been, based upon some other states responses, it would seem that the agency would have solicited response from certain municipalities here in Indiana, and they possibly could have but that data was left out of my communication from the agency.

When posed with the question as to the internal process related to due diligence, assessment and decision making, the response is lacking or ignored. This is unfortunate and leaves me wondering why. It might suggest that there is not a standard process to assess these types of situations and as such an orchestration of outcome is arguably easier, although not necessarily indicated. It might suggest though that there needs to be a more formal assessment, not simply a "other states" allow it response. Additionally, it appears that the agency is suggesting that they should have no voice, influence or even recommendation of any "social issue" which seems to be defined as anything that isn't a threat to the biology of wildlife. All weapon use as such is most likely defined as a "social issue" and it begs the question as to why the agency would take any position and instead relying solely on a definitively defined process meant to enable the NRC with enough information to make a determination per the request of the public. But, that information, if gathered by the agency, should be done via a documented process enabling a strong, multi-faceted due diligence regarding wildlife impact and public safety, not social acceptance. The supposed reliance on other states input seems a bit disingenuous and lacking due diligence when it appears that many of the restrictions applied in other states is not or was not considered for Indiana. Consistency appears to be lacking, leaving discomfort with the process and the recommendations, which would suggest a delay in any decision by the NRC and a more formal due diligence by the agency next year.

This now suggests that any weapon requested in the future that does not create a threat to the wildlife should in essence be supported by the agency by recommendation since it is a "social issue" which they appear to suggest is outside of their scope of involvement.

It also begs the question as to whether the NRC requests, reviews and thoroughly assesses the process, documentation and various factors or simply relies on the agency recommendation without influence on what the process is and how it is managed or strength of due diligence.

They all have a difficult job which I'm glad I don't have. But, I believe these types of situations could be better explained by documented processes, strong due diligence and transparency of process, outcome and recommendation. I urge a delay and request for a more thorough process to assure a strong due diligence by the agency and a lack of staff preference in regard to assessing this proposal.

Dave Delaney

Comment Received 3/24/2015 5:57:59 PM

Commenter Name Jay Johnson

City Roachdale **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jayhj51@yahoo.com

Comments I am deeply concerned about the proposed rule to allow high powered rifles for the purpose of deer hunting in

Indiana. We are blessed in this country in that we are not living in a war zone like so many countries in the world. We don't have to worry about stray bullets injuring ourselves or our loved ones. Until now. I was once a hunter. I know what hunting can be like. I know the threat of accidental misfires. To have long range high powered rifles in the hands of those not specifically trained in their use is putting those living in rural areas at risk for injury and possibly death. Another point is the fair chase aspect of hunting. The claim of fair chase is already quite laughable but to have high powered long range rifles for the use of killing deer makes fair chase non existent. Whatever sportsmanship that exists in the sport of hunting would be only a memory.

Comment Received 3/24/2015 8:47:57 PM

Commenter Name Carmen Carter

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address CCarter2909@aol.com

Comments I want to see the new rifle rounds for next hunting season.

Comment Received 3/24/2015 9:50:31 PM

Commenter Name Dennis Howe

City Tell City **County** PERRY **State** In

Organization (optional) RC&D Fish & Wildlife

E-Mail Address dhowe@psci.net

Comments I support the use of rifles in . 243 and up for deer hunting .

I do not support the idea of only 25 bluegill limit Thanks

Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:01:38 PM

Commenter Name Rick Knueven

City Sunman **County** RIPLEY **State** IN

Organization (optional) avid deer hunter

E-Mail Address peknuveen@etczone.com

Comments As a Ind. deer hunter I strongly appose any high-power rifle deer season I am seeing less and less deer as each season passes. I don't want to see it get worse as I am sure it will that is a no-brainer. I will then will most likely quit deer hunting all together. We really do not need rifles to kill a deer!

Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:17:23 PM

Commenter Name Cade Knueven

City Sunman **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address cknueven@hotmail.com

Comments Deer hunting has progressively gotten worse over the past years especially since a couple of years ago when you where aloud to kill 10 deer in Dearborn county.

The past five years deer hunting has just got worse we do everything possible to keep deer on our property keep food plots planted certain areas un disturbed an

still no luck like the old days. If rifles come about in Indiana deer will NOT exist just saying. I'm tired of hunting my ass off trying to do it the right way and never see

a thing. Keep the law the way it is if anything. If "IF" this law goes into effect I honestly will probably just quit hunting deer all together

Comment Received 3/24/2015 10:36:49 PM

Commenter Name Brian Moffett

City Connersville **County** FAYETTE **State** Indiana

Organization (optional) Moffett Farms

E-Mail Address bubalee45@hotmail.com

Comments Indiana is too populated for rifle caliber deer hunting.

We should be going the other way, shotguns only. I manage 480 acres and many rural buildings. I expect more bullet holes if repeating high power rifles are in use. BIG difference between smokeless muzzle loader and a bolt action. This change would be an absence of good judgment. I am against it !

Brian Moffett

Comment Received 3/24/2015 11:51:07 PM

Commenter Name Jim Keller

City Georgetown **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jim@slessereengineering.com

Comments I hunt public lands such as Hoosier National Forrest, I am concerned about "high powered" rifles being used in this setting. These areas have alot of hunting pressure and for this reason my concerns are: 1. Will there be a limit on the number of rounds allowed in the firearm that is being used, modern sorting rifles have detachable mags that hold 30+ rounds, and in a hunting area that is as crowded as Hoosier National this is very dangerous. I have watched "hunters" unload a slug gun- reload and unload again at running deer. I only see how this will become even more dangerous with a 30

round mag loaded with .308 rounds. 2. Will there be any limits on the number of rounds that may be loaded into the firearm. If this rule were to pass as a hunter I would like to see a limit on mag capacity. I would suggest a five round max. at any time as it is with most slug guns. While this is not a perfect solution for few "stupid hunters" who give the overwhelming number of good ethical hunters a bad reputation it does give some restrictions that can have a deterrent effect. It is my understanding that this is a "done deal" I hope that at least there can be a limit on the number of rounds in the firearm.

Thank you,
Jim Keller

Comment Received 3/25/2015 7:36:58 AM

Commenter Name S. Backs

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

E-Mail Address jtbuddha@netsurfusa.net

Comments Oppose Bluegill/Sunfish daily 25 bag limit, is not sound mgmt.

Suggest maximum 6 shot capacity for firearm equipment used to hunt deer.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 8:51:49 AM

Commenter Name J. Backs

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jtbuddha@netsurfusa.net

Comments Oppose Bluegill/Sunfish daily 25 bag limit, is not sound fisheries mgmt. and ridiculously denies fishing opportunities.

Suggest maximum 6 shot capacity for firearm equipment used to hunt deer.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 8:55:21 AM

Commenter Name S. Backs

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jtbuddha@netsurfusa.net

Comments Support pig rule change to prohibit use of dogs to take wild pigs; that is part of the reason the pigs are here in the first place and why they have spread

Comment Received 3/25/2015 8:58:42 AM

Commenter Name J. Backs

City Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address jtbuddha@netsurfusa.net

Comments Support pig rule change to prohibit use of dogs to take wild pigs; that is part of the reason the pigs are here in the first place and why they have spread

Comment Received 3/25/2015 9:00:32 AM

Commenter Name David A. Deem

City Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address ddeem@vinu.edu

Comments I oppose hunting deer with center fire rifles of .243 and larger. As a life long In resident and holder of a Comprehensive Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License No. 4140, I have hunted all of my adult life. The rural areas of Knox are not sufficiently isolated to safely allow rifle cartridges that can travel the distances permitted by modern technology. Clearing of land in our county has made it possible to see for miles, and you see houses and farm operations. Watch the outdoor show "Best of the West" sometime. Modern rifle and ammo technology allow them to routinely take game in the western states at ranges in excess of 700 yds. and they are not lobbing the bullet in like a mortar. I own and hunt rural land in Knox County and I am adamantly opposed to this change. It is simply not needed. It is bad enough that virtually everyday rural people have to listen AR's with 30 round clips being shot incessantly by people both close and miles away. Makes for a great quality of rural life - the 2nd Amendment trumps my desire quiet and safety.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 1:54:22 PM

Commenter Name IWF from Doug Allman

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

Organization (optional) IWF

E-Mail Address info@indianawildlife.org

Comments IWF Fish and Wildlife: Biennial Rule Amendment Package comments.

On behalf of the Indiana Wildlife Federation, 708 E. Michigan St. Indianapolis, IN, we seek to inform the IDNR of our position on the following proposed Administrative Rule change. These comment pertain to the Fish and Wildlife: Biennial Rule Amendment Package.

At the IWF annual meeting held on March 21st 2015, the membership in attendance voted unanimously to oppose the proposed changes that would change cartridges allowed for deer hunting in Indiana and allow expanded use of high powered rifles. IWF members are concerned that the expansion of high powered rifles could cause safety issues involving both participants as well as non participants due to its range and unlimited capacity. They believe that the increased risk, with the increased range of the weapon, could be detrimental to hunters gaining private access. It also could be problematic on crowded public land. The IDNR failed to look at increasing the current 200 yd buffer zones affecting all IDNR buildings.

Others believe the effective range of the weapon could negatively affect the deer harvest at a time when hunters believe the deer herd is declining which concerns hunters. Members feel the IDNR did not adequately consider the states topography and human density when considering rifles in Indiana. Instead of comparing us to the neighboring states of Illinois and Ohio with similar topography the DNR's comments used States to the north Wisconsin and Michigan and failed to mention for most of the land in those states rifles for deer are prohibited. States used for comparison to Indiana like Kentucky and Pennsylvania have much different topography than that of Indiana. The IDNR has also fail to consider the added increase requirements for blaze orange that states allowing high powered rifles require. For these reasons and more we oppose the rule change.

At the IWF annual meeting held on March 21st 20015, the membership in attendance also voted unanimously to oppose the proposed changes to the urban deer zone change to deer reduction zone as well as the season length and bag zone changes proposed in the rule change. It was felt that there is too much discretion given to the director and staff without proper review. This proposed change removes public oversight from the process. There is concern over the bag limits effecting recreational hunting in areas where access is available to the many yet access to problematic areas of high deer concentrations is not obtainable. It is believed that the extended season length can also cause a wariness of landowners as well as their neighbors who would have to deal with hunters for 2 plus months. With the proposal to legalize high powered rifles, a 2month long gun season, the public and politicians in and around urban and other areas with localized deer problems may react in such a way this change will hurt more than help with deer control. For these reasons and more we oppose the rule change.

Steve Cecil, IWF president
Erin Baird, IWF Executive Director

Comment Received 3/25/2015 3:20:23 PM

Commenter Name John Sullivan

City Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address itsullivan@juno.com

Comments My name is John Sullivan and I'm a retired Indiana Conservation Officer.

The last 13 years of my career i was the District One Commander.

I'm writing in regards to the proposed regulation allowing rifles of 243 or larger for deer hunting.

Throughout my career it was understood and we told the public the human population was to dense to safely allow deer hunting with high powered rifles, I understand the argument that rifles can be used for coyote and many other species but all other hunting together wont even come close to the numbers that participate in deer hunting.

I believe it's in Indiana's best interest to not allow rifles to be used for taking deer. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 3:42:51 PM

Commenter Name Gene Crum

City Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address paladinwilltravel@yahoo.com

Comments These comments are regarding technical changes to firearms approved for taking deer:

CONCERNING shotguns: There is no reason to list individually the gauges of shotguns approved. Instead, the language should be as simple as "All shotguns .410-bore and larger, whether smoothbore or rifled, chambered for a shotgun cartridge."

CONCERNING the rifle cartridges .25-20, .32-20, and .30 Carbine: With the adoption of the .410-bore shotgun cartridge as humane for the taking of deer, plus the proper requirement that rifle cartridges use expanding bullets, and considering that each of these cartridges have energy performance superior to the .410 rifled slugs, their selection and use is and should be at the decision of the hunter. Beyond this, each of these cartridges is commercially available and subject to the 11 percent excise tax collected for fostering hunting (including deer hunting).

CONCERNING the legal length for rifle barrels: Federal law sets sixteen inches (16") as the minimum legal length for defining rifles which are not subject to the National Firearms Act. However, it should be noted that there is a growing sporting interest in complying with the Federal law (NFA) for novelty/utility purposes, especially because the shorter barrels are used in conjunction with (registered) suppressors, which themselves now are being encouraged for use in hunting. The hunting regulations may best be focused on defining a rifle as being a firearm designed or reconfigured to be fired from the shoulder, having a rifled barrel not chambered for a shotgun cartridge.

CONCERNING firearms made with multiple barrels: With the adoption of regulations approving rifles for the taking of deer, there no longer is justification for a ban on firearms with multiple barrels, such as the German-inspired "drillings" and so-called "Cape Guns," etc., as long as all the barrels of such guns are chambered for cartridges approved elsewhere in the "equipment" regulations. It's also prudent to be aware that these types of guns still are being made overseas, usually in common calibers, and are being imported/sold in the U.S. subject to the 11 percent excise tax on their (very high) prices.

I hope these comments are useful, particularly since they address questions I've heard discussed among "gunny" sportsmen for many decades. Thanks very much for the chance to comment!

Comment Received 3/25/2015 3:54:45 PM

Commenter Name Terrence J. Quandt

City Dyer County LAKE State Indiana

E-Mail Address snorbertus@yahoo.com

Comments I request that the DNR consider the following with regard to the "equipment" regulations governing deer-hunting:

1. Shotgun-gauges should not be enumerated, but instead should simply be stated, ".410-bore or larger, whether smooth-bore or rifled bores, which are chambered for shotgun cartridges."
2. Rifles should be defined as "firearms designed or reconfigured to be fired from the shoulder, having rifled bores chambered for approved (rifle) cartridges".
3. In light of the standing approval of .410 rifled-slug ammunition for the taking of deer, there no longer is justification for the ban on .25-20, .32-20, and .30 U.S. Carbine rifle cartridges, each of which exceeds in commercial loadings the power of .410 slugs. Beyond that, each of these is subject to the Federal 11 percent excise tax collected for promoting and encouraging hunting.
4. With the approval of accepted rifle and shotgun cartridges, there no longer is justification for a ban on guns having multiple barrels, such as the German "drillings" and the so-called "Cape Guns," examples of which still are made overseas and imported here, subject to the 11 percent excise tax levied on their (very high) prices.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 4:46:57 PM

Commenter Name Tim Hutson

City Daleville County DELAWARE State IN

E-Mail Address Tehutson@yahoo.com

Comments I very much support the changes proposed by DNR for rifle cartridges and also written permission for coyotes. Thank You!

Comment Received 3/25/2015 5:25:54 PM

Commenter Name Georgeanna Wright

City Greenwood County JOHNSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address glwright66@comcast.net

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 5:39:54 PM

Commenter Name Anna Wright

City Greenwood County JOHNSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address glwright66@gmail.com

Comments I support the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:00:57 PM

Commenter Name Kristen Wright

City Greenwood County JOHNSON State Indiana

E-Mail Address klwright99@comcast.net

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:08:45 PM

Commenter Name Steve Miller

City Hebron County PORTER State IN

E-Mail Address miller623@comcast.net

Comments Natural Resources Commission:

This is to express my opposition to several portions of the proposed rule changes for 2015. My biggest opposition is to the proposed change to allow additional rifles to be used for deer hunting. I have no problem with the point that .243 caliber bullets and 1.16" minimum case length rounds can humanely kill white-tailed deer, however the other justifications the DNR used to support these changes appear to be half thought out at best. For example:

They state that reducing the bullet size and eliminating the case length maximum will allow hunters to use 30-30 and .45-70 rifles. What they fail to mention is that it will also allow hunters to also use 7mm Rem Mag, .30-06, 300 Win Mag, .375 H & H and .50 BMG, just to name a few. These are long range rifles that have bullet travel distances of up to 5 miles.

That there are no limits on rifles used for hunting other species in Indiana (migratory birds, deer and turkey excepted). One must remember that 30,000+ hunters don't head out on opening day of squirrel or coyote season.

Stating that modern muzzleloaders are essentially high powers rifles (500 yard range) is a stretch to say the least. There are very few 500 yard muzzleloaders available today AND they are only one shot, which results in hunters being very selective with their shot.

Yes, rifles are legal in nearby states, but most of those nearby states also have increased "blaze orange" requirements and some have magazine capacity restrictions. Many of those states also have different terrain and population densities than Indiana.

While hunting related accidents have not increased as a result of the use of rifles (with limited pistol-type calibers) in Indiana, the proposed changes could greatly increase accident potential. Just think of a deer running past a hunter in a ground blind or tree stand armed with a 30 caliber semi-automatic rifle with a 20 or 30 round magazine (which the changes would allow). I am also opposed to: 1) Changing the name of the Urban Zone to a Deer Reduction Zone; and 2) Allowing the use of firearms in these areas (where allowed) after the first Saturday after November 11th. I believe this creates too much confusion and potential law enforcement problems as to where firearms can/cannot be used. A better solution would be to keep the name Urban Zone for urban areas where the need exists to more closely manage the deer population and limit these areas to current archery/cross bow limits. Areas outside of urban areas where management is need could be designated Deer Reduction Zones and weapons designated accordingly.

I hope you will reject these proposed changes and in the future the DNR would come back with a proposal that includes changes to the blaze orange requirements similar to Kentucky's, a case length maximum to eliminate the large/long range calibers, and a magazine capacity restriction. The potential safety risks, law enforcement problems, and potential to hurt the image of hunting and the hunter do no warrant them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Steve Miller
IN Hunter Ed Instructor
50+ year hunter

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:09:23 PM

Commenter Name Kris Wright

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address klwright911@gmail.com

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:10:11 PM

Commenter Name Kris Wright

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address klwright911@gmail.com

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:10:11 PM

Commenter Name Leah Wright

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lcwright03@comcast.net

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season. Why can we use Center Fire Rifles for everything else except Deer. I has never made any sense.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:13:15 PM

Commenter Name Mark Sanders

City Oaktown **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mark_sanders11@yahoo.com

Comments I support the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:14:28 PM

Commenter Name Claire Wright

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address lcwright03@gmail.com

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season. I can use a 30-30 to shoot Rabbit or Squirrel, but not Deer? That doesn't make sense. We can use .243 and .270 to hunt Coyote, why not deer. Finally some rules that make sense!

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:18:30 PM

Commenter Name Mark Wright

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mkwright67@comcast.net

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:20:42 PM

Commenter Name Mark K Wright

City Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address mkwright67@gmail.com

Comments I SUPPORT the rule change to allow CENTER FIRE RIFLES during Deer Season. It's about time Indiana got into the 20th Century by passing this rule change in the 21st Century. It only makes sense. My Black Powder Rifle will shoot my Precision Built Flex Tip 44 caliber Saboted projectile further than my 30-30. Pass the Rule Change already! Thanks

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:25:38 PM

Commenter Name Bradley Stewart

City Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana

E-Mail Address bgstewart1951@gmail.com

Comments I feel the new rule change for hunting deer with rifles is a good move. I hunt coyotes with a AR 15 chamber in 223. This would allow me to purchase a new rifle and hunt many other states as well.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 6:46:31 PM

Commenter Name David Schultz

City Indianapolis County HENDRICKS State Indiana

E-Mail Address dshultz@indy.rr.com

Comments I do not think Indiana is a state where calibers over what is legal now would be a benefit in fact I think it would be a danger to hunters. I have harvested deer with a 44mag and have never shot longer than 75 yards. I work for a retailer that sells firearms and in my opinion most hunters are not capable of making long shots that could be possible with higher calibers because know one practices at that distance. Another reason I oppose the change is the terrain in Indiana is not suitable for high calibers. It's not like your the only hunter in a five square mile area like out west. One can't keep hunters off your own property so you never who is out there with a high power firearm. I hunt on the ground and I don't want to be shot by a hunter that is not capable of making a long shot or shoot until there gun is empty. Opening day can be a war zone and big caliber rifles will add to the danger. Hunting to me is trying to out smart your prey not sniping from long distance.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 7:29:47 PM

Commenter Name Doug Allman

City Fishers County HAMILTON State IN

E-Mail Address dna1975@embarqmail.com

Comments Comments on Proposed Rule Changes

312 IAC 9-1-5.3: Removes the word "traverse" to allow additional types of crossbows to be used.

Comments: I am against this. There is no current need to change this socially or biologically. It opens the door for unseen future weapons expansion that may not be good for the sport or could once again pit sportsmen against another.

312 IAC 9-3-2: Comments: I am against the change of the urban deer zone to deer reduction zone as well as the plan that is proposed.

312 IAC 9-3-3: Comments: I am against the rule change allowing more center fire rifle cartridges in fact I believe instead of allowing more high powered cartridges we should allow less. As you extend the range of a weapon you also extend the margin of error as well as in this instance you greatly increase the range that a bullet will carry. This will allow more game to be killed at a further distance which may affect the impact on the resource as well as the chance that someone or something could be shot. My biggest objection to this having fought anti hunting county ordinances, is that the general public and politicians will react and further restrict gunfire and hunting in and around dwellings and municipalities. There is no doubt given the increased range of these guns a majority of hunters will gravitate towards high powered rifles as hunters will push the limits to which they can kill an animal. The IDNR knows this as they cite muzzleloader evolution as their excuse for allowing HP rifles. Which brings me to the 5 points of justification used as propaganda and it is not neutral or unbiased.

If the IDNR is going to use the fact we only limit deer and turkey for HP rifles then legalize it for turkeys too. If you are going to say rifle use will not change the harvest for deer then it should not change for turkeys either. If one reasons the challenge of turkey hunting is to call the bird in and get it close then why is it OK to shoot deer at 500 yards. What is the challenge of that? You say it the tradition. Well it the tradition we don't use the preferred tool of poachers for deer.

You use other states as justification of rifles. Those States have different topographies as well as some only allow rifles in certain areas of the state like Wisconsin and Michigan. Ohio and Illinois who have topography similar to Indiana does not allow rifles nor have any plans too. There DNR is against it.

You have also had people shot in those states like Pennsylvania that were not even hunting. You had a baby shot inside a house in its fathers arms as well as kids at school yard.

You also have not address that those states that allow HP rifles require more hunter orange than Indiana does. It is irresponsible or incompetent to look at other states and yet not consider hunter orange requirements in this proposed rule change. You need to go to the orange army look that goes on in other state but I don't think Indiana hunters want the trade off. You also need to increase the amount of hunter orange of those who are small game hunting during seasons that would include the use of rifles for deer. One currently needs just a hat.

Lastly on your propaganda piece talking about humanely killing animals with rifles, did you think about that when you legalized stone arrowheads for hunting?

. Again I oppose the rifle change as well as the urban deer zone to your 2 month deer gun zone proposal as previously stated. Now we have Ted Nugent who has been convicted of braking game laws in multiple states advocating for rifles in the Indiana press. I am sure gun companies will as well as they did before with the PC rifles.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 8:59:14 PM

Commenter Name Doug Allman

City Fishers County HAMILTON State IN

E-Mail Address dna1975@embarqmail.com

Comments 312 IAC 9-3-4: Makes the following changes to the deer season dates and bag limits:

- Renames Urban Deer Zones to Reduction Zones.
- Modifies boundaries for these zones by allowing them to be established annually by the DNR Director in a temporary rule.

Adding or removing deer-reduction zones on an annual basis would give the DNR more flexibility to address deer density conflicts and to respond to disease threats.

- Increases bag limit of antlerless deer in these areas.

• Comments: I am against this change as well as the change to 312IAC9-3-3: It would allow the director, at his discretion, to put in place zones without public review or sportsman's input, that could be negative to the resource, to hunter opportunity as well as negative to public acceptance and perception of wildlife and the management of. A deer zone could be set up anywhere of any sizes for any reason and with a kill limit of 10 per person with the addition of rifles, it amounts to sharpshooting. The deer zone could be politically motivated being push by a governor or politicians to which the director would have to appease, for fear of losing his job. I support using bows in urban areas to control deer as it is quiet and not noticed by the public. You put rifles and guns with hunter orange in the same area for 2 months killing deer and you will not only have residents, hunters, the public react negatively but local politicians as well. You will do more to harm access than increase it. Access is difficult now but some are reconsidering allowing bow hunting including those in local government who have restricted all discharge of a projectile. In your current urban zones, which I reside in one, the deer population is down substantially where there is access, this proposal will turn off the public acceptance to hunting. The IDNR, by its action is playing into the hands of groups like Farm Bureau and some legislators who perceive deer as well as other wildlife as vermin. The IDNR has demonstrated it does not have the ability to do what's best for sportsmen and for the resource when it comes to politics I do not want to further give cede power to the few and remove public oversight. I could several different scenarios that would be detrimental to the North American Conservation model.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 9:01:02 PM

Commenter Name Jesse emmons

City Elora County **DAVISS State** Indiana

E-Mail Address Jesseemmons@hotmail.com

Comments I would like see high powered rifles even though I now use .358 Hoosier but like limit too 5 round clip hate see someone out with 30 round don't need that

Comment Received 3/25/2015 9:18:25 PM

Commenter Name thomas johnson

City orland County **LAGRANGE State** indiana

E-Mail Address jeanneorland@aol.com

Comments whom it may concern at the NRC/DFW

I am writing because of concern and confusion in regards to the walleye regulations at Wall lake (Lagrange cou.). I am a Wall lake cottage owner and board member of the Wall lake Fisherman Assoc. I and the Wall lake board had thought that last year a 16 in. minimum size and a 2 fish bag limit was established. This was something that the Wall lake assoc. members and cottage owners supported. I now read that Wall lake is an exemption to the 16 in. rule. Why is this? It was just implemented last year. Is this just a printing mistake?

Sincerely & confused,

Tom Johnson

Comment Received 3/25/2015 9:33:33 PM

Commenter Name Erin Huang

City Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

Organization (optional) The Humane Society of the United States

E-Mail Address ehuang@humanesociety.org

Comments On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Indiana supporters we offer this written testimony in opposition to the changes to section 312 IAC 9-3-15. The new language would allow the taking of wildlife by private landowners "if the wild animal is causing damage or threatening to cause damage to property or is posing a health or safety threat to persons or domestic animals." Our concerns center around the vague language proposed in 312 IAC 9-3-15(a) and are outlined below.

1) "causing damage"

- The proposal does not specify that the damage being caused is ongoing and extensive or something that can be remedied. Killing an animal under such an arbitrary definition would not be in the best interests of conservation and effective management. We suggest adding qualifying language such as "causing ongoing damage that cannot be remedied despite documented consideration of exclusionary or other non-lethal means of deterrence," so that animals are not being arbitrarily taken.

2) "...or threatening to cause damage"

• Again, this language is vague and arbitrary. "Threatening" is subject to gross assumptions, one can wrongly perceive the mere presence of the animal as "threatening." We urge the adoption of language that damage is imminent, not just reflecting the mere presence of the animal, and adding the language, "cannot be prevented despite documented consideration of exclusionary or other non-lethal means of deterrence."

3) "is posing a health or safety threat"

• This language is also subject to broad interpretation and abuse. We suggest striking the above phrase and replacing it with, "posing a verified health threat or legitimate safety risk that cannot be resolved using non-lethal methods."

Conservation and humane treatment of animals is a major concern for our members and supporters and we believe that the language in aforementioned proposed changes, if left as is, could lead to abuse of the intent of the rules, and cause undue harm to wild animals and unwarranted taking of these species. We respectfully urge the Department of Natural Resources to adopt the changes noted above.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 10:06:06 PM

Commenter Name Aaron Aldred

City Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address fossilhunter928@hotmail.com

Comments I have four comments:

1.) Shotgun-gauges should not be enumerated, but instead should simply be ".410-bore or larger, whether fired from smoothbore or rifled bore barrels."

2.) Rifles should be defined as firearms designed or reconfigured to be fired from the shoulder, having rifled bores chambered for approved rifle or handgun cartridges.

3.) In view of the standing approval of .410 rifled slug ammunition for the taking of deer, there no longer is justification for the ban on .25-20, .32-20, and .30 U.S. Carbine rifle cartridges. Each of these calibers exceeds the power of .410 shotgun slugs are commercially available with jacketed soft point or ballistic tip projectiles suitable for hunting.

4.) With the approval of both rifle and shotgun cartridges, there is no longer a justification for a ban on multiple barrel combination guns, such as the German "drillings" and the so-called "Cape Guns," which are traditional European hunting arms.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 10:19:49 PM

Commenter Name Toby Cheatham

City Pekin **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

E-Mail Address tcheatham@wclark.k12.in.us

Comments My comment will focus on rule change proposal 312 IAC 9-3-3 and the new rifle cartridge allowances.

I would first like to thank the state for making changes within the past decade that were significant in promoting our young hunters and promoting our quality of deer. The implementation of the "one buck rule" and youth hunting season were wonderful additions.

I am a lifetime resident of Indiana and have hunted for nearly 30 years in the southern part of the state. I am lifetime hunting and fishing license holder and am raising two children to respect and enjoy the outdoors as well.

In regards to the states proposal to allow high powered rifles that are equivalent to or greater that .243, I simply ask why? I have attended public meetings before concerning state proposals, most recently the addition of the crossbow as legal equipment during archery. During this meeting at Spring Mill State Park, it seemed the primary driving force behind adding the crossbow was to lower the deer herd. As mentioned in state reports our record harvest was the year the crossbow was implemented, 2012.

Is this the reason for allowing high caliber weapons? The statements made on this website are very weak reasons for allowing this change. The page mentions, "several surrounding states allow them", muzzleloaders are capable of 500 yard shots and are allowed currently in our state, and there haven't been any injuries related to the rifles in our state or neighboring states, etc.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 11:08:48 PM

Commenter Name Dave Krieger

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Comments Allowing high power rifles to hunt deer in Indiana is unsafe. Most individuals are hunting on farms less than 200 acres. High power rifle ammo has the potential to travel outside of the individuals hunting area and injure or kill innocent people. Individuals wanting to hunt deer in Indiana already have plenty of options on what types of hunting equipment to use. Too many deer in Indiana are already being killed. It is supposed to be hunting not target shooting from 1,000 yards.

Comment Received 3/25/2015 11:42:34 PM